

Yemen to accept each other's currency

SANAA (AP) — North and South Yemen announced Friday that their currencies would be accepted in each country starting immediately. The decision, announced by the prime minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, is part of a series of moves to bring the two countries closer together. The move, which was announced by the prime minister, is part of a series of moves to bring the two countries closer together. The move, which was announced by the prime minister, is part of a series of moves to bring the two countries closer together.

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Rockets fired at northern Israel

KASEHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Rockets fired at northern Israel Thursday, the Israeli Defense Forces said. The rockets, fired from the South Lebanon Army (SLA) area, were fired at the Israeli town of Kasehaya. The SLA, which is allied with the Syrian army, has been firing rockets at Israel for several days.

Militias clash in south Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Shiite Muslim militias backed by Syria and Iran clashed Friday with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in south Beirut, close to where most of the Western hostages are believed held. The clash, which broke out at 3:15 a.m. (0015), ended after five hours later after the Syrian army command in charge of security in Beirut's western sector sent foot patrols to disengage the combatants in the Shiyah district. Police said four people were wounded in the firefight between the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal.

Soviet minister visits Syria, praises ties

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet Power and Electrification Minister Yuri Semynov arrived in Syria Friday for a week-long visit, the official news agency SANA reported. It said Semynov would discuss commercial and economic cooperation with Syrian officials following a visit to Moscow last week by President Hafez Al Assad. Semynov, head of the Soviet side of the permanent Syrian-Soviet technical and economic cooperation committee, praised existing ties in an arrival statement.

Karamanlis elected Greek president

ATHENS (R) — Elder statesman Constantine Karamanlis, who restored democracy to Greece in 1974 after seven years of dictatorship, was elected the country's president Friday. Although the presidency is largely a ceremonial post, the choice of Karamanlis, 83, was widely seen as strengthening the new conservative government which took office with a razor-thin majority after general elections April 8. The ruling conservative New Democracy Party has 150 seats in the 300-seat parliament, but Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis has won the support of a single centrist deputy. Karamanlis received 153 votes on the second ballot when only an absolute majority was needed for victory.

ICRC resumes Sudan relief flights

NAIROBI (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) resumed relief flights into southern Sudan Friday after a six-month gap. Dominic Duff, coordinator of ICRC relief operations in southern Sudan, said a twin-engineered Beechcraft flew from Khartoum to the government-held town of Wau in southwestern Sudan. At the same time, a Twin Otter flew from Likiepko in northern Sudan to the rebel-held town of Ler on the River Nile, he told Reuters.

Israeli court rejects settler bid

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court Friday dealt a fresh blow to Jewish settlers who sparked an international row when they moved into a house in Jerusalem's Christian quarter. Israel Radio said a district court refused to let the settlers' appeal against an interim eviction notice and ordered them to pay 5,000 Israeli shekels (\$2,500) in costs.

Fedallah links hostages to prisoners

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's most influential pro-Iranian leader said Friday the fate of the remaining Western hostages was linked to that of Arabs jailed in Israel.

Pretoria, ANC achieve 'important breakthrough'

CAPE TOWN (AP) — The government and the African National Congress (ANC) announced Friday they made an "important breakthrough" in agreeing to work together to end political violence in South Africa. President F.W. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela, looking relaxed after three days of talks, told a news conference they made major progress towards creating a normal political climate. They said such a climate would clear the way for bringing blacks into the national government. "I regard what is contained in this document as an important breakthrough in the peace process," de Klerk said. The two sides also issued a joint communiqué outlining steps to end political violence and remove remaining obstacles to full-scale constitutional negotiations. "The government and the ANC agree on a common commitment towards the resolution of the existing climate of violence and intimidation from whatever quarter as well as a commitment to stability and to a peaceful process of negotiations," the joint statement said. It said a working group would report by May 21 on ways to overcome remaining obstacles to the full-scale constitutional negotiations. De Klerk told the news conference no date had been set for further talks between the two sides.

The two leaders said their talks had been an important step forward. They praised each other's sincerity and determination to find a peaceful solution in South Africa's racial divisions. "I look to the future with confidence," de Klerk said. Mandela said the most striking feature of the negotiations had been there "cordiality." "We have had discussions on sensitive matters in a spirit of conciliation and understanding," he said. The joint statement outlined five steps to be taken to try to settle remaining ANC demands for full-scale negotiations. They included: — Establishing the working group to handle practical matters; — Granting of temporary immunity from prosecution for political offenses for selected top ANC officials; — A government review of existing security legislation; and — Establishing channels of communication between the two sides to halt violence. The declaration said the government committed itself "to work towards the lifting of the state of emergency" — a key ANC demand. "In this context, the ANC will exert itself to fulfill the objective contained in the preamble," the communiqué said, referring to the statement on seeking a peaceful climate.

Official dismisses 'Mossad agent' report

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A senior Jordanian official has categorically denied a report that a Jordanian military attaché was arrested two months ago and sentenced last week for allegedly working for Israel's secret service, Mossad.

"There is no basis for truth in the report," the official told the Jordan Times-Thursday in reference to a story which appeared in the Arab Jerusalem-based Arabic-language daily Al-Quds Wednesday.

The Al Quds report, which followed rumors here that a senior Armed Forces officer who was on assignment to the Foreign Ministry was detained two months back, quoted Jordanian security sources as saying that the alleged Mossad agent was held after Egyptian intelligence tipped off its Jordanian counterpart. The report did not mention the name of the alleged diplomat, but rumors had said that it was the Jordanian military attaché in Pakistan.

The official, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said ill-health was the reason for the return home of Brigadier Hamzeh Al Azab, military attaché at the Kingdom's embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. "I am going back (to Pakistan) in about two days," said Azab, son of the former mufti of the Jordanian Armed Forces. "I came here on a visit." Azab, who is from the southern town of Ma'an, told the Jordan Times Friday. Azab described the motive of the rumor and the Al Quds report as "an attempt to cause division and sow distrust within the Armed Forces." Rumors that a senior military attaché was suspected of working as an agent for Mossad were circulating in Jordanian circles for over two weeks and some versions of it had said that Egyptian intelligence had uncovered the "operative" and alerted Jordanian security forces. As it turned out, these rumors were started by an unidentified Jordanian who is currently being detained and questioned by police, other sources said.

Syria says Mubarak visit a promising start

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Friday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit produced a promising start on rebuilding Arab unity, but no miracles. "Maybe the summit and (too) many things to do, but the foundation stone was re-set," commented the building party newspaper Al Baath. "The Damascus summit, even if it did not perform miracles, opened the way for Arab solidarity. Maybe it put an end to the state of collapse and weakness caused by contradictory Arab positions."

Mubarak's visit to Damascus Wednesday and Thursday was the first by an Egyptian leader in 13 years and sealed a rift that resulted from the late Anwar Sadat's treaty with Israel.

But Mubarak could not persuade President Hafez Al Assad to end his long-standing quarrel with Iraq.

Al Baath said the summit had undoubtedly ended an era of division and would help the Arab world counter what it called the expansionist schemes of Israeli prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"It will no doubt constitute an end to a previous state and a starting point for a new era for fruitful Arab action that will overcome all the problems which allow Shamir to announce his expansionist intentions."

The government newspaper Tishreen attacked the United States for failing to take any serious initiative to restore Arab rights or put any serious pressure on Israel.

"The United States will continue its negative stand as long as Arabs remain fractured," it said. "From this point of view, the Syria-Egypt meeting was a turning point in unifying Arab effort. It was a promising meeting on more than one level. It is the start of a new Arab effort."

The English-language daily Syria Times said that "Syrian-Egyptian cooperation is the beginning and herald of events which the Arab World will welcome."

Prince Abdullah's visit was scheduled following talks in Saudi Arabia last month between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd. The talks were described as "extremely positive."

Official sources confirmed last month that Saudi Arabia had agreed "in principle" to extend financial support to Jordan but Amman has not received any Saudi aid this year.



Prince Abdullah

Saudi crown prince to visit soon

By Salamah Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz is due here this week on an official visit to discuss the holding of an Arab summit conference and expected Saudi financial aid to Jordan, according to official sources.

The sources told the Jordan Times that Prince Abdullah, who will also visit Cairo, Baghdad and Damascus, "will be on a final bid for Arab reconciliation — that would pave the way for a successful summit conference."

The Saudi crown prince, who heads the Arab reconciliation committee since 1983, has played a major role in attempts to achieve Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation, and had earlier achieved success in Jordanian-Syrian reconciliation.

Saudi King Fahd also sponsored Algerian-Moroccan reconciliation after arranging a border meeting between President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria and King Hassan of Morocco. Following the meeting the two countries restored diplomatic relations in 1987.

According to the sources, Prince Abdullah's tour is a signal that Riyadh is prepared to fully put its weight behind the summit which is proposed to be held in Baghdad before the end of this month.

The summit agenda would include the Middle East peace process, threats from Soviet-Jewish immigration, and the Lebanese crisis, in addition to changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

The sources said the Jordanian government also "pins hopes on receiving Saudi financial aid during Prince Abdullah's visit as promised last month."

Prince Abdullah's visit was scheduled following talks in Saudi Arabia last month between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd. The talks were described as "extremely positive."

Official sources confirmed last month that Saudi Arabia had agreed "in principle" to extend financial support to Jordan but Amman has not received any Saudi aid this year.

The sources said that so far the government had received only 6.5 per cent of the total Arab aid of \$360 million projected in the 1990 national budget.

The government has expressed confidence that it will eventually get the expected aid, but financial sources fear that a further delay in receiving financial support could result in complications for the Kingdom in servicing its foreign debt and implementing projects in line with the structural adjustment programme worked out with the International Monetary Fund.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran launched a tough austerity programme last March which entailed cutting public expenditure to a minimum, particularly current spending of ministries and government departments.

Last month, Jordanian and Iraqi officials confirmed that an agreement was reached in principle between Amman, Baghdad and Riyadh on a project to link an Iraqi oil pipeline running through Saudi territory with a Saudi pipeline (Tajana) which pumps oil to Jordan.

Israelis demolish three homes in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) —

Israeli troops overnight demolished at least three Palestinian homes in the occupied West Bank, reports said Friday. Troops also shot and critically wounded a wanted Palestinian activist Friday in disputed circumstances.

Israeli sources said troops saw Nasser Abu Hamed, 19, in a mosque in the Al Amari refugee camp and shot him outside the building when he tried to flee. Palestinian sources quoted a witness as saying troops pursued him into a house in the camp, threw him to the floor and shot him several times in the head.

Official sources said in a statement that Abu Hamed was armed and was shot in a clash with soldiers. They said Abu Hamed was suspected of killing six Arabs accused of collaborating with Israel, one was former Al Amari head man Zuhair Al Ajel, who died Monday after a masked Palestinian had shot him in the head five times the day before.

Palestinians said Israeli forces had been hunting Abu Hamed, head of an underground group known as the Masked Lions, since the start of the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Troops Friday arrested three other members of the Masked Lions.

Soldiers ordered residents into their homes and declared the area a closed military zone, off limits to reporters.

Troops overnight demolished the home of Ramzi Obeideh and sealed the house of Mohammad Jaideh, both Al Amari residents accused of killing suspected Arab collaborators.

In nearby Betunia the military dynamited the home of Mahmoud Al Louzi, also arrested in February on suspicion of killing accused collaborators, a witness said.

In Ramallah, at least three stone-throwing students were wounded in clashes with troops. One was shot in the leg by live ammunition and two were hit by rubber bullets, local hospital staff said.

Some 120,000 people in Nabulis and neighbouring refugee camps remained under a curfew imposed Thursday to prevent protests as rightist Israelis dedicated a new scripture scroll at a shrine in the heart of the city.

Peace activists and left-wing politicians said the ceremony was a provocation signalling plans for a new Jewish settlement in the heart of Nabulis.

Knesset (parliament) Speaker Dov Shilansky, a member of the hardline Likud party, chanted with a Torah scroll in his arms. He ignored reporters who asked

him whether it was fair that thousands were confined to their homes for the sake of the event.

Rehavim Zeevy, a parliamentarian from the right-wing Moleket Party, denied the ceremony was provocative.

Only 100 religious people, 20 peace activists staging a protest vigil and a handful of local and foreign journalists were allowed to enter the area. But peace activists said Israeli forces allowed 150 Jewish settlers to attend.

A Nabulis resident writing in the daily Hadashot under the name Abu Fulan said: "We all know how the settlements begin. They begin with a Torah scroll. If you don't look closely suddenly there is a settlement there."

In Washington, Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, met with President George Bush Thursday and said afterward he was convinced Bush "has no objection to Jews settling all over Jerusalem without any exception."

Kollek said he explained to Bush that the occupied city would like to get its "proportional share" of immigrants, from the Soviet Union or elsewhere.

"I assured him that... we had not changed the frontier of Jerusalem since '87 by a single inch,"

(Continued on page 5)

Rabin bounces back to political limelight with edge over Shamir

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

Former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party would defeat Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud bloc by a margin of 2-1 if Israel's leader was chosen in direct elections, a poll published Friday indicated.

The poll came a day after Rabin fired the opening round in what is expected to start a campaign to topple Labour leader Shimon Peres, who has been weakened by his failure to form a ruling coalition.

Rabin strongly hinted that if the left-leaning Labour Party ended up in the opposition, he would run against Peres to lead the party into the next elections.

In the opposition, party members would have a chance to renew their leadership, Rabin said. "I believe that then the members of the party will choose those who they believe can achieve better results in the election," he said in an interview on

Israel Television.

When asked whether he was one of the candidates for leadership, Rabin said: "Certainly, of them."

Calls for ousting Peres were also echoed by other Labour Party members. "I think there is a need for Rabin to replace Peres," said Labour legislator Mordechai Gur on army radio. "I just don't know if technically it could happen."

Uzi Baram, another Labour Party member, also said that if the party held primaries while in opposition he too would vote for Rabin.

"Now Peres is against Rabin and I don't think Peres can lead the party in the future," he said. Peres, meanwhile, downplayed any campaign to topple him from party leadership saying "there are always threats."

"I am used to them every so often. As far failure, it depends what you call failure," Peres said

in an interview on Israel Radio.

The political horse-racing that characterised Peres' attempt to form a coalition set off a movement for electoral reform throughout the country.

On the other hand, Rabin's iron-fist policy on the uprising as defence minister won him widespread popularity.

Shamir has been trying to form a government since being given the mandate last week from President Chaim Herzog when Peres failed in the task.

Shamir's 15-month-old cabinet fell last month over Likud's refusal to accept a U.S. formula for arranging Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Rabin, who advocates reestablishing a Likud-Labour government, said that he would call for political reform and direct elections of the prime minister is no unity government could be formed.

Latvian parliament votes to declare republic independent

RIGA (Agencies) —

The Latvian parliament voted Friday to declare Latvia "an independent democratic republic" — the first stage down the road to its planned full independence from the Soviet Union.

Deputies voted 138 for with none against, but there was one abstention and 57 deputies boycotted the vote.

Under a complex formula, the declaration restored the core of the 1922 constitution of the then independent Latvia, while leaving much of the Soviet criminal code in place until a new constitution is prepared.

Latvia's rulers hope this formulation will help the republic avoid the fate of neighbouring Lithuania, blockaded by Moscow after it declared full, immediate independence March 11.

The Latvian declaration, citing the 1922 constitution's first article, said "Latvia is an independent democratic republic."

As the time for the vote approached, young girls in gold headbands and bright pink skirts sang Latvian folk songs outside the Supreme Soviet building. Demonstrators held red and white Latvian flags.

The bill, proposed by the Latvian People's Front that dominates the parliament, proclaims the beginning of an unspecified period of transition to full independence. In the interim, the draft provides for negotiations with Moscow.

Estonia has taken a similar step. Members of Latvia's opposition complained they were not given enough time to study the declaration. Others said Moscow would respond with heavy pressure to rescind the measure.

Rubiks said his constituents oppose the declaration. "They will express themselves in mass demonstrations and political strikes in all the cities" if the measure passes, he said. They also would ask Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to impose presidential rule, he said.

Rubiks instead urged a popular referendum on secession. Other speakers, however, said the declaration was the only way to avoid demographic disaster for Latvians, who are close to becoming a minority on their own

territory. "This is our last possibility to survive, and we are going to take advantage of it. That is why we demand independence," writer Alberts Bels said.

In Moscow, Alexander Yakovlev, a senior aide to Gorbachev, reaffirmed Friday that the Lithuanians would have at least to freeze their independence declaration before talks could begin with the Kremlin.

"If the Lithuanian leadership in some form either rescinds or suspends or declares inactive for a period of consultations its declaration of independence, all the possibilities exist for the starting of consultations and constructive dialogue," he told a news conference.

Yakovlev insisted Moscow was offering a "simple way out" of the situation. "You freeze your widely-proclaimed declaration and let's talk," he said.

However, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said this week the republic was prepared to negotiate everything except the declaration itself.

In a sign of Lithuania's worsening situation, the republic's government has restricted to 500 roubles (\$800) the amount depositors can withdraw each month from the bank, the independent news agency Interfax said.

The Lithuanian parliament was meeting to discuss the rehabilitation of those convicted of political crimes under dictator Josef Stalin.

Velayati calls for reciprocal step by West over hostages

HELSINKI (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Friday that Iran will not work to free more Western hostages until Israel releases hundreds of imprisoned Lebanese.

Velayati demanded that the United States and Britain put pressure on the Israelis and reciprocate the recent release of two American hostages.

There are six Americans and four Britons among the 16 Western kidnap victims still missing in Lebanon. The others are one Italian, one Irishman, two West Germans and two Swiss.

Ending a two-day official visit to Finland, Velayati said Israel must free "several hundred Lebanese hostages" before any steps are taken to free any of the 16 remaining hostages seized in Lebanon, who are being held by pro-Iranian groups.

"The other side has to take practical steps... to influence Israel and the Falangists," he said, referring to a Christian Lebanese group once allied with Israel.

"Especially the United States and Britain can persuade Israel to release these abducted people," Velayati said at a news conference.

"That is the expectation of the Lebanese groups. They have said they have taken the first step and now it is the turn of the other side to show its goodwill. We are waiting for the practical steps," he said.

Tuesday, Israeli officials offered to free Arab prisoners in exchange for three Israelis held captive in Lebanon, but indicated they would not make a deal for Western hostages alone.

U.S. President George Bush had said the day before that he had "certainly no objection" to Israel freeing some of the thousands of prisoners it holds as a goodwill gesture suggested by a Tehran newspaper.

More than 300 Arab prisoners are held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) at Al Khiam just north of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Most of the Al Khiam inmates are Shi'ite Muslims. The best-

known is Jawad Kaswi, captured in 1988.

In addition, Israel holds more than 5,000 Palestinians detained during the 28-month uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories. About 1,300 are being held without trial in the Ketzioi Prison located in the Negev Desert.

The most prominent prisoner Israel holds is Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Shi'ite Muslim cleric belonging to Hizbollah. Israel captured Obeid and two assistants on July 28.

Velayati said the Western hostages are not in "the hands of the Iranians" and that Iran had to persuade the Lebanese groups to release Robert Pohill and Frank Reed.

"Of course, we played a key role, but we worked over months," he added.

Reed, released Monday from 42 months in captivity, was on his way to the United States Friday. Pohill was released on April 22 after being held 39 months.

Velayati said "no deals had been done" for the release of the two Americans, and said that Iran had not been involved in any talks with the United States.

On Thursday, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iran was not interested in restoring ties with the United States, though he acknowledged the appreciation Bush had expressed to Iran and Syria for their help.

At a news conference in Washington, Bush said he was unwilling to make any conciliatory gestures toward Iran at this time.

Velayati said Iran would hold talks with Britain — as suggested by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Thursday — if the British government shows "respect for Islam and Muslims."

Velayati said that the main reason for severed relations between Iran and Britain "was the support of the government of

Britain for Salman Rushdie."

In February 1989, the late Islamic spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy against Islam in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

"This death sentence still stands because it is based on Islamic Laws," Velayati said.

Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio said the Rushdie affair hurt bilateral relations but would not affect trade ties. The two countries signed a joint agreement on economic, industrial and technological cooperation Friday.

Meanwhile Reed criticized the British government Friday because of the continued captivity in Lebanon of two British citizens.

"They are my best mates, those guys, we're going to get them out," Reed said of Brian Keenan and John McCarthy, shortly before he left the U.S. Air Force Hospital in Wiesbaden to begin his journey back to the United States.

Asked if he thought the British government should do more to win the release of McCarthy and Keenan, Reed replied: "You bet they should be."

Reed, 57, said Wednesday he had spent much of his 42 months of captivity in the company of McCarthy and Keenan.

Reed said he was held with two Americans as well — Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press and the longest-held hostage, and educator Thomas Sutherland.

Reed has said repeatedly since his release Monday that he is angry that people he was held with are not yet out, and that he will work to help win their freedom.

He told reporters he would be meeting with relatives of Keenan and McCarthy in Washington.

Reed spoke briefly to reporters shortly after emerging from the Wiesbaden hospital, where he had been undergoing medical tests and debriefings by a special U.S. State Department team seeking clues about Western hostages in Lebanon.

The thin, pale Reed, wearing grey trousers and a polo shirt, boarded a military van along with his family that took them to the Wiesbaden Air Base.

Reed lost 27 kilograms in captivity during which he was kept blindfolded and bound, but is otherwise in basically sound health, doctors have said.

The founder of a private school in Beirut, Reed was the second American hostage to be freed in nine days. Robert Pohill, freed on April 22, went through the same battery of medical tests and questioning last week.

Anderson was kidnapped on March 16, 1985, Sutherland was seized on June 9, 1985. Keenan was abducted on April 11, 1986, and McCarthy was kidnapped six

days later.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, under pressure to secure the release of British hostages, Thursday welcomed Syria's and Iran's role in obtaining freedom for two U.S. captives but said Britain will make no deal with hostage-takers.

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, whose special envoy Terry Waite is a hostage, and families of other captives appealed to the government to open direct negotiations with Iran.

"I don't rule it out if it were clear that it was going to produce success," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in a BBC-TV interview from Brussels.

Thatcher told the House of Commons the absence of diplomatic relations with Iran and Syria was an obstacle but she said Britain was using "diplomatic contacts and pressure" to try to win the hostages' release.

"Obviously we very much want to get our hostages out — and every day we're trying to do something to that end," she said.

"We shall continue to try through our contacts... to do everything possible to bring about the release of the hostages, about whom we are very concerned."

Akhundzadeh Basti, Iran's former charge d'affaires in Britain, told the London-based newsletter *Mideast Mirror* Thursday that a visit by British members of parliament to Tehran, followed by a review of their position on Rushdie, could help win Iranian assistance in freeing the British hostages.

4 new ministers named in Cyprus government

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus President George Vassiliou has named four new ministers in his first cabinet shakeup since he took office in February 1988.

Christoforos Christofides, a dentist from Larnaca and former member of the House of Representatives, is the new minister of education replacing Andreas Philippou.

Larnaca lawyer Nicos Papaioannou replaces Christoforos Chrysanthos as minister of justice.

Pavlos Savides, a shipping company manager from Limassol, takes the Ministry of Communications and Works from Nikos Protopapas.

Iakovos Aristidou, director-general of the Ministry of Education and former head of the government planning bureau, becomes minister of labour and social insurance. He succeeds Takis Christofides who resigned last month.

They were being sworn in Friday. Vassiliou, who announced the changes Thursday, is a non-party figure who was elected with broad support, including the Communist Party. His ministers are technocrats without active party ties.

The government controls the southern two-thirds of the island, which has been divided into Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sectors since a Turkish invasion in 1975 prompted by a coup in Nicosia. The breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is recognised only by Turkey.

Security Council urged to make sure Israel respects human rights

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A Palestinian spokesman has told the Security Council it had a duty to make sure Israel respected its international obligations and not repeatedly postpone action critical of the Jewish state.

Zahdi Labib Terzi, representative of the Palestine observatory mission, was addressing the sixth session of a debate initiated on March 15 following Arab fears that Moscow's emigration policies could result in thousands of Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Arab states want Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip declared illegal and demand that all nations, particularly the United States, stop providing Israel with aid that could be used to settle immigrants in the territories.

Diplomats said everyone was waiting for Washington, which prefers not to have any resolution, to decide whether to enter negotiations on a final document or veto whatever draft may be put to a vote.

Terzi also said the United Na-

tions should "establish a mechanism" to monitor human rights violations in the occupied territories at close range.

Waiting for a government to be established in Israel seemed to be "dragging" the council in examining a draft resolution that "had been going around for weeks," he said.

Greece and Egypt also used Thursday's debate to condemn other Israeli actions, including the government's support for Jewish settlers who moved into a building in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

Egyptian ambassador Amr Moussa made a special plea to Israel to put an "end to its practices against Palestinians" and sit down and negotiate.

There must be a move away from "stereotyped thinking," he said.

Representatives from Romania and Turkey as well as speakers during previous sessions said Jewish settlements in the occupied territories violated international law.

Kabul lifts emergency

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah lifted a national state of emergency Friday but a nightly curfew in the capital remained in effect and government officials said they expected fighting against U.S.-backed rebels to continue.

The state of emergency, imposed soon after Soviet troops defending Najibullah withdrew in February 1989, concentrated power in the cabinet at the expense of parliament.

Government officials said ending the emergency would restore powers to parliament and open the way for peace talks and free elections to end the 11-year-old civil war.

But the rebels refuse to negotiate while Najibullah remains in power, and have said they will not participate in a grand tribal assembly that Kabul plans to convene this month to discuss peace.

Diplomats in Kabul said lifting the emergency and convening the assembly would increase pressure on the rebels to compromise ahead of the U.S.-Soviet summit starting on May 30.

The rebels control the Afghan countryside, while government forces hold major cities and towns.

Army launches offensive

Afghan government troops have advanced about five kilometres out of Jalalabad in an offensive against guerrillas, guer-

rilla sources said Thursday. A force of about 500 militiamen, supported by tanks and artillery, began attacking rebel positions Monday, according to the sources in Peshawar.

Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province, defied several guerrilla assaults after the Soviet Union completed its troop pullout from Afghanistan in February last year.

Guerrillas have been trying to take the eastern town as a base for their Pakistan-based government-in-exile, after capturing the highway linking it to Pakistan through the Khyber Pass. It was not immediately clear if the offensive aimed to recapture the highway.

Details of casualties were not known, but witnesses reaching Peshawar said a local guerrilla commander, Mulla Anar of the Ittihad-I-Islami party, was killed in the offensive.

An Asian scholar told U.S. Congress Thursday the United States and the Soviet Union both should stop sending weapons to Afghanistan and encourage elections which Moscow has said it will accept.

The remarks of Barnett Rubin, a fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, came amid a report that Washington and Moscow are taking a new tack in the effort to end the war in Afghanistan.

The New York Times reported Thursday that both sides have shown flexibility on the issue.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Fateh leader gets life sentence in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court Thursday jailed the commander of a PLO guerrilla unit for life for planting bombs. The explosions in Tel Aviv suburbs last year did minor damage to a car and a building but caused no casualties. Jaber Saman, 33, from Zawayia village in the occupied West Bank, pleaded guilty to 24 charges, including involvement in more than a dozen bomb plots. Yosef lost a hand and an eye last year when a bomb he was preparing blew up in his hands. The court also jailed Hassan Atspor Shafir, 26, another Zawayia resident, for 25 years for guerrilla activity. On Tuesday, extremist anti-Arab activist Moshe Levinger received a five-month jail term after pleading guilty to killing a Palestinian shoe seller in the West Bank town of Hebron. Lawyers for Levinger arranged a plea bargain to reduce the original charge of manslaughter, which could carry up to 20 years in prison, to the lesser charge of causing death by negligence.

Stroke: A growing concern in S. Arabia

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina (AP) — Saudi Arabians who abandoned their traditional, nomadic lifestyle for a Western one have increased their risk of strokes, a researcher said. Dr. James F. Toole, a neurologist at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, said strokes were not a problem for the Saudis until the past 30 years. Until then, the Middle Eastern nation was a country of nomads who moved about the desert in camel caravans. But with the discovery of oil in the 1950s came some of the most modern cities in the world — and an accompanying way of life more conducive to strokes. Many Western lifestyles are associated with stress, which is a contributing factor in high blood pressure and heart disease. And most Saudis, he said, simply did not believe that anything could be done to prevent or alleviate the curses of old age, including strokes. "Generally, when someone gets old, they ignore the disease," Toole said. "If someone has a stroke, they said that the person was struck by the hand of God." They are just now turning on to the idea of preventative maintenance of patients over 65. As one of several guest lecturers at a recent symposium at Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital, Toole spoke to Saudi doctors about strokes and how to prevent them. Strokes are caused when the flow of blood to part of the brain is blocked, causing that part of the brain to die.

Hashish discovered at Beirut airport

BEIRUT (AP) — Authorities at Beirut airport said they busted 170 kilograms of hashish destined for Frankfurt shortly before shipment Thursday. They said the cargo was concealed in wooden boxes marked as books. "The hashish was discovered when a customs employee opened one of the boxes shortly before it was to be taken on board the plane," a terse police report on the arrests said. "Several people were arrested immediately after the discovery of the shipment," the statement said. The name of the shipping agent and those arrested were not released. A police spokesman said the Frankfurt-bound hashish was valued at about \$85,000 but refused to give further details on the incident. Ports of Lebanon's Christian sector are believed the traditional shipping point for most hashish from Lebanon, but a three month battle for control of the Christian enclave has severely disrupted maritime traffic.

Two Israelis jailed in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — Two Israelis already serving a two-year prison term for a series of local burglaries were sentenced to an additional 12 months Thursday for stealing jewellery worth 1,500 pounds (\$3,000) from a Cypriot woman. The two, who police said were Soviet Jews who had recently emigrated to Israel, were named in court as Anatoli Boris Pesiasov, 32, and Natik Yiasier, 22. The police prosecution said the two embarked on a series of burglaries and thefts while on holiday in this tourist resort city. The two had previously appeared in court last month. The sentences will run concurrently.

Chad claims rebel convoy destroyed

N'DIAMENA, Chad (AP) — The army high command has reported that its forces destroyed a convoy of Libyan-backed Islamic Legion rebels on the Sudanese border. The engagement Wednesday claimed the lives of 32 guerrillas and 57 rebels were taken prisoner, the high command said Thursday in a communique.

GRATITUDE

The Tawil and Marji families and their relatives renew the public expression of the gratitude and loyalty to

His Majesty King Hussein

for all his kindness and overwhelming audience His Majesty accorded to their son Dr. Peter Tawil and to professor Dr. Hulger Busse as he bestowed on them the Istiklal Medal.

And pray to the Lord to save His Majesty the asset of his Jordanian family and the Arab Nation.

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:55	..... Educational programme
16:00	..... News summary
16:05	..... Message from Iraq
16:25	..... A play by Shakespeare
16:10	..... Local programme
16:20	..... Programme review
16:25	..... News in Arabic
16:30	..... Arabic series
16:35	..... Programme review
16:40	..... Consumer's Guide
16:45	..... Local programme
16:50	..... News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:05	..... Le Monde est a vous
17:10	..... News in French
17:15	..... Aujourd'hui en France
17:20	..... News in Hebrew
17:25	..... News in Arabic
17:30	..... Surgical Spirit
17:35	..... Encounter
17:40	..... News in English
17:45	..... Feature film: "An Unmistakable Job for a Woman"

PRAYER TIMES

04:16 Fajr
05:42 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:52 Dhuhr
16:12 'Asr

19:22 Maghreb
20:49 Taba

CHURCHES

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
moderate to fresh, cooling dust in the eastern part of the Kingdom. In Amman, winds will be northerly fresh and sea wavy.	
Amman: Min./max. temp. 7/18	
Aqaba: 13/26	
Deserts: 6/22	
Jordan Valley: 11/25	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 27, Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Sa'ed Abu Hatab	744089
Dr. Jamil Marwasi	716096
Dr. Yusuf Samara	615648
Dr. Wael Khattabi	660917
Firas pharmacy	661912
Karwans pharmacy	776356
Al Anwar pharmacy	670055
Natourah pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Sinclair pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Shams	(—)
Al Shams pharmacy	985238
ZARQA:	
Dr. Youssef Aywad	(—)
Khalid pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Police	192, 631111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Black Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	890390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls	121
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	515615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	6442816
Al-Balqa Maternity, J. Amn.	640412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Matine, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	6641714
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musayib Hospital	6672779
The Islamic, Abdali	6641646
Al-Ahli, Abdali	66612737
Al-Mahajira	771013
Al-Balqa, J. Amman	775111/26
Amn, Maria	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	6224050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983322
Rajha National Hospital	(09)91071
Dr. Sam Hospital	(09)960732
IRBID:	
Palestine Banna Hospital	(02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)72275
St. Al-Nadwa Hospital	(02)547100
AQABA:	
Princess Maya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:15	Aqaba, Hailan (RJ)
06:30	Cairo (RJ)
06:45	Amman, New York (RJ)
12:00	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:15	Paris (RJ)
12:30	London (RJ)
12:45	Paris (RJ)
13:00	Aqaba, Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:15	Cairo (RJ)
13:30	Baghdad (RJ)
13:45	Montreal, New York, Madrid (RJ)
19:00	Karachi (RJ)
19:15	Larnaca (RJ)
19:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
19:45	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday opens a two-day conference on biology (Petra photo)

Biology conference highlights scientific aspects in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday opened a two-day conference on biology, organised by the Jordanian Society for Biological Sciences in cooperation with the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST).

Addressing the opening session, the society President Abdul Razzaq Taqieddine said the conference aims at giving biologists the chance to exchange experiences in the area of scientific research.

Taqieddine outlined the society's objectives, saying that it aims at strengthening scientific ties between Jordanian and Arab biologists and improving their technical performance.

President of HCST Abdullah Tougan addressed the opening session, explaining the council's role in the field of scientific research. Tougan said the council formulates the general policy of science and technology, defines priorities and programmes, and sets the appropriate strategies for developing the scientific and technical capacities.

Taking part in the two-day

conference are 50 scientists, representing the four Jordanian universities, Jordanian scientific institutions in Jordan and representatives of the private sector laboratories.

The two-day conference is made up of six sessions, in addition to the opening session attended by ministers of agriculture, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, and tourism, in addition to the senate member, Laith Sharaf and several scientists.

The sessions include a round table symposium on the environmental situation in Jordan and protecting it from pollution, general discussions on basic biology, nutrition and medical science as well as lectures on ecology and parasites.

Participants in the second biological sciences conference sent a cable to Her Majesty Queen Noor thanking her for opening the conference and voicing their appreciation for Her Majesty's encouragement of researchers taking part in the conference.

King meets Belgian official, discusses Middle East situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Belgian parliament's foreign affairs committee Jean-Gol Saturday winds up a three-day visit to Jordan during which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and met with the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar and Parliament members.

According to Belgian embassy sources, Gol spent Friday sightseeing at the Nabatean city of Petra in the south, before returning to Amman to prepare for his trip home Saturday.

In a statement Thursday, Gol reflected his country's keenness to help establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Speaking at an audience with the King at the Royal Court, Gol said whoever is familiar with the situation in the Middle East realises the need to put an end to all forms of extremism which has adverse effects on the region's stability and peace.

"The recent events in Jerusalem, Israel's attempt to seize property owned by the Greek Orthodox Church there and the Israeli assault on Christian clergy caused a deep shock to the Bel-

gian people and government," Gol said during the audience.

For his part, the King voiced Jordan's deep appreciation of Belgium's stand and its interest in contributing to the success of peace efforts. King Hussein said the favourable changes now taking place in the world and which are reducing world tension ought to encompass the Middle East region whose peoples yearn for peace, stability and security.

The King voiced hope that the European Community would display a greater measure of interest in stabilising the Middle East region which holds 65 per cent of the world's total oil reserves and which is now prey to numerous disputes and regional conflicts including disputes over water resources.

In reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the King said the organisation had displayed moderation and done all it was required from it to meet the requirements of peace. He said the European Community ought to better understand the Palestinian stand, otherwise Israel's intransigence and extremism will deepen and the chances for peace could be lost.

Gol met earlier with Arar and Parliament members and reiterated a Belgian parliament's resolution which called for withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian land occupied since 1967, and the convening of an international Middle East peace conference to settle the Arab Israeli conflict.

Gol also called for the implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine and denounced Israel's actions against the Palestinian people as terrorist.

Arar discussed the recent developments in Palestine and said that Israel was placing obstacles in the path of peace through its illegal practices, its seizure of Christian and Muslim property and its continued occupation of Arab land.

Israel, he said, is trying to absorb more Jewish immigrants in order to maintain its expansionist policies and the United States is helping this tendency by endorsing Israel's annexation of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Arar also spoke about the current hostile campaign against Iraq at a time when Israel is allowed to amass nuclear weapons.

National Gallery of Fine Arts celebrates 10th anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the honorary president and patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Thursday patronised a dinner held on the 10th anniversary of the society, at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

Her Majesty presented royal gifts and certificates of appreciation to HH Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the board of trustees and members of the board.

The dinner was attended by HH Princess Sarvath Al Has-

san, HH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, HH Prince Ali Ben Nayef and several ministers and supporters of the society.

The Royal Society of Fine Arts, is a cultural, non-governmental and non-profit organisation, that was established in 1979. It has an independent administrative, financial and legal status. Its independent budget and all donations it receives are tax exempted.

Islamic and Arab art is the society's main concern; it aims at

patronising contemporary art in Jordan, in Arab countries and the Third World. Other objectives of the society include translation of books and research in Islamic and Arab culture, providing financial assistance and moral support to artists in Jordan.

The society is also the founder of Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts which was established in 1980 with a permanent collection of Orientation work and works of contemporary Islamic artists.

King voices anger at Israel's move; patriarch of Jerusalem ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros I Friday wound up a week long visit to Jordan and returned to the Holy City.

During his stay in Amman, Diodoros was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein who reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to protect the religious places in occupied Jerusalem and paid tribute to the patriarch's and the clergy's resistance against Israeli moves in the Christian Quarter of the Old City.

On the last day of the patriarch's stay here, Jordan Television released a statement by King Hussein following his meeting with the patriarch who briefed him on the situation in Jerusalem after Israeli settlers' occupation of St. John Hospice building and Israeli forces' assault on the Christian clergy in the holy places.

The King said: "I am more than shocked. I am very angry really at what I see happening in Jerusalem and what one saw developing to this point of making

this holiest of cities to all followers of the three great monotheistic religions a political game; a game here and a game in other parts of the world.

I think that this is a very tragic, very dangerous incident happening when congressmen and senators in the United States are falling over each other to call for Jerusalem to be part of the political game. This is something that is incomprehensible to me and very regrettable.

I believe that the situation is very dangerous and I hope that what has happened may shake this world and its conscience to realise the importance of Jerusalem to all of us. The city should be kept as it has been in the past, safe from hands that have no respect for what is lofty and what is dear and what is in the hearts of all believers."

On the last day of his stay here the patriarch was received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran who expressed Jordan's appreciation of the Christian community's

efforts to deal with the Israeli onslaught on the holy places and to confront Zionist moves to establish settlements and to occupy Christian holy places.

Jordan, he said, will remain strongly committed to helping the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab lands in the face of Israel's practices, the prime minister stressed.

He said the Muslims and Christians have been coexisting for centuries and protecting their holy shrines in an atmosphere of affection and close cooperation. Diodoros I said Christians and Muslims in Jerusalem were launching a joint struggle to end Israel's occupation of the Holy City and to prevent Zionists from changing the character of Jerusalem.

Both the patriarch and the prime minister emphasised the need for the international community to put an end to Israel's atrocities and desecration of the holy places, and the seizure of Islamic and Christian cultural and historical sites in the Holy City.

Germany to help Jordan in the field of ophthalmology

AMMAN (J.T.) — Corneas for eye patients could be provided to the Eye Bank in Jordan from West Germany through the assistance of Professor Halger Busse who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

The professor discussed the plan at a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein held at the Royal Court Thursday in the presence of Jordanian expatriate specialist living in Germany, Dr. Butros Tawel.

"West German institutions will also be willing to provide training to Jordanian specialists and technicians in the field of ophthalmic

surgery," Busse said. Tawel told the King that a special fund had already been established in Germany to raise contributions for the establishment of an advanced medical centre in Jordan for the treatment of eye patients or to send the patients for treatment in Germany.

The professor presented the King with a video tape featuring the surgical operation he conducted in Germany on seven-year-old boy, Jafar Momani, last February. King Hussein took personal

interest in the boy and arranged for his travel to a West German hospital for the operation that provided the boy with a new cornea.

King Hussein thanked Busse and Tawel for their efforts and stressed the importance of maintaining close cooperation in medicine between Jordan and Germany.

Tawel, a plastic surgeon living and working in West Germany was instrumental in arranging for the boy's operation to be conducted in Germany and in establishing a fund and to raising contributions for medical services.

Palestinian Communist leader addresses Amman meeting

"Jordanian democracy boosts intifada"

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The latest democratic developments in Jordan have positively contributed to the Palestinian uprising and have given a "refreshing boost" to the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, according to the secretary-general of the Palestine Communist Party in the occupied territories, Bashir Barghouti.

"There is no doubt that the enjoyment of democracy amongst the nationalist forces in Jordan has positively affected the struggle of the intifada. And through this support, feelings of suspicion and old bitter feelings are diminishing," Barghouti told a crowd of 2,000 gathered at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Wednesday night.

He said that Palestinians were feeling the Jordanian democracy through the Palestinian support exerted publicly, projected through the media.

"As long as this public support continues and there is the chance to practise this freedom, it can be very beneficial to the intifada and the relations between Palestinians and Jordanians," Barghouti, who was allowed to visit Jordan for the first time in 16 years, said.

The Jordanian administrative disengagement from the occupied West Bank in the summer of 88, he said, was a positive move for the Palestinian cause, paving the way for the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. Barghouti added that the disengagement improved Jordanian/Palestinian unity, and now "all support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil."

In his lecture, Barghouti said the intifada alone cannot liberate Palestine, noting that some Arab countries attempt to exaggerate this argument in an effort to relieve themselves from the responsibility of contributing in solving the Palestinian problems.

He said that the next Arab summit in Baghdad would be a positive contribution to the intifada if it comes out with a new strategy, "unlike the Casablanca summit that resulted in the 10-point plan of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak."

"It is obvious that all these plans (Mubarak's, then U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-pointers) would fail, as they have." "We must stop at this closed passage and work towards a proper solution based on the Palestinian initia-

tive and continue working towards an international peace conference," Barghouti said, adding that the Arab countries must be independent of the superpowers to give themselves weight and influence, and forget the false illusion that the solution is in the hands of the United States. He added that to wait around for a response on the Baker plan is escaping from responsibility of moving towards a just settlement.

The Arab summit taking place in Baghdad, Barghouti said, was a positive move because Iraq, with its military capabilities, is seen as a threat to Israel and the United States and it can be the centre in the balance of power with Israel.

"The Arab countries have the moral, economic and military power to be independent of the superpowers, creating a balance of power, and this should be utilised to successfully pressure these superpowers to accept the international peace conference. If the Arabs (in the summit) do not agree on this new outlook unanimously, it does not matter, even if the important countries do, it would have more weight than the Casablanca summit," he said.

"Introducing democracy in Arab countries and improving

their relations — particularly between Syria and Iraq and Syria and the PLO — would enhance the Arab strength in achieving positive moves towards a just peace," Barghouti said, adding that this would also intensify the intifada.

"Let us not underestimate the pain and suffering of Palestinians under occupation; they need to know that there are practical Arab moves to feel they are not left out or forgotten; let us give them more confidence that there is more than just the intifada to achieve their goods and aspirations," he said.

On the Palestinian front inside the occupied territories, Barghouti emphasised the need for protecting the national unity in order to advance the intifada. The unified leadership of the uprising, he said, must take a more democratic approach in dealing with the people. He explained that the leadership must become a "political leadership and make possible demands" on the people.

"There must be a clear and certain policy," he did not elaborate but said this would push the uprising forward "because the people are convinced that there is no choice but the struggle against the Zionist occupation."

Jordan, Egypt to boost cooperation

CAIRO (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah Saturday open talks here to promote the functions of the Egyptian-Jordanian Holding Company which carries out projects in the two countries.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the company's ministers would discuss the prospect of raising the company's capital to \$100 million, up from \$50 million now that North Yemen and Iraq, the other members of the Arab

Cooperation Council (ACC) have applied to have a share in the company.

"The two ministers will review new projects which the holding company plans to carry out in the coming stage," Petra said.

Upon arriving in Cairo Dr. Fariz said the company's activities and projects during 1989 will be reviewed along with bilateral coordination in industry, trade and agriculture. According to Makramallah, who met Fariz at the airport, special attention will

be given to the holding company's lean meat production project now being carried out in Egypt.

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat also arrived in Cairo for a three-day visit and talks with his Egyptian counterpart Youssef Wali. The talks, according to Petra, will deal with cooperation in the field of agriculture and launching fisheries industries and reclamation of arid land. Arabiyat said he would tour several Egyptian agricultural projects.

Pharmacists stress need for research

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the four-day pharmaceutical conference Friday stressed the need to give scientific research centres and drug control laboratories a special attention in view of their role in advancing drug industries.

At the conclusion of their meetings, they also called for supporting the veterinary drug industry and for subjecting imported veterinary drugs and those locally produced to control at the

drug quality control labs.

They also called for drawing up a new drug policy, aimed at ensuring the provision of good drugs at reasonable prices, and called for lifting protectionism on locally produced drugs, with a view to create competition between locally-produced and imported drugs.

Participants further called for reconsidering the regulation of the technical committee in charge of registering drugs to avoid any

delays in registering and releasing drugs.

Furthermore, participants stressed the need for unifying the prices of drugs at pharmacies, and called on the new drug industries to produce new kinds of drugs, in an effort to complement the already existing products.

The conference discussed ten working papers on the use of medical plants in providing raw material for local drug industries.

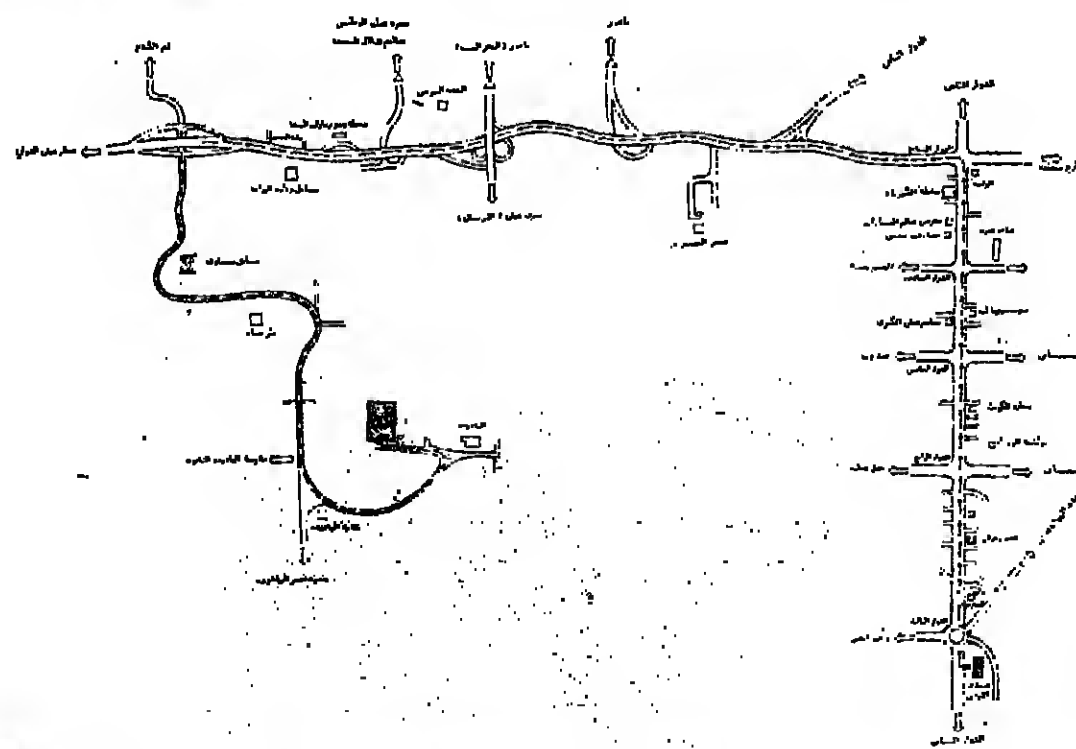
Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians

Medical Aid for Palestinians Walk - Jordan
at 11/5/1990

NOTES ON SPONSOR FORMS

Date, time and venue

The walk will start at the Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 a.m. on Friday 11th May 1990 and will follow the route outlined in the enclosed map. Participants are requested to arrive not later than 8:30. It will end at Kherbat Abu Jaber.



Stations

The Walk will be divided into substages (stations) 2 Km. apart. Participants collect a card at the Intercontinental Hotel and have a new card at each station. The final (11th) station will be at the Kherbat Abu Jaber.

How much should one walk

One can walk as he/she wants, but the minimum valid distance is 2 Km. i.e. one should get at least the first card. When ever a participant decides to quit the walk, he/she should remember to collect their validated sponsorship form.

Food & drinks

Participants with sponsor forms will be provided with food and drinks free of charge along the route at every station.

Buses & Shuttles

These will be available during the walk to take the participants back to the Intercontinental Hotel or Kherbat Abu Jaber. An ambulance will be on stand by in case of emergency.

Police supervision

The police have been notified and will be available to ensure the safety of the participants.

Media Coverage

The event shall be covered by TV, Radio, and the local newspapers.

Collection of money

After completing the walk, participants should get their validated forms back with the money corresponding to the number of sponsors on each form, back to the organising committee not later than 25th of May 1990.

Lottery

A lottery shall be organised within the J.M.A.P.'s month. There are several valuable prizes of which the first prize is a 1989 model B.M.W. Tickets shall be sold for JD 5.

Extra forms can be obtained by contacting us on the above address.

Thank you for helping us to help the sick and needy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

• Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

• Children play in Arabic entitled "Al Shahed" (The Witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

BAZAAR

• Charity bazaar displaying brass and woodworks, ceramics, photos and paintings depicting the Jordanian environment and Islamic and cultural books at Al 'Awda Club, Zarqa.

FILMS

• French video entitled "La route des géants" at the French Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

• German video entitled "Maria Stuart" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Handwritten text in Arabic: "هذا من الاصل"

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Defence — a legitimate right

THE COUNTRIES seizing pipes destined for Iraq are increasing by leaps and bounds with no legitimate reason being offered to explain this kind of piracy. Especially troubling the arbitrary decisions taken by such countries to confiscate goods destined for a third country. Even if the Iraqi-bound pipes will be used for rocketry purposes, one is at a loss to find a valid justification under international law to seize such goods and equipment. Since when countries cannot import components for their national needs be they pipes or airplanes or ballistic missiles? If owning, possessing or importing defensive or even offensive armament needs a certain licensing procedure by some international organisation or another, then one may see some logic in the ongoing efforts to frustrate Iraq's determination to stand up on its own feet and defend itself against blatant threats from the East or the West.

All of this leads to one conclusion, namely, that Iraq is being ostracised for its courage to defend itself and its being made the subject of a well orchestrated and hateful campaign for no reason other than offering the kind of response for which the Arab Nation has waited for such a long time.

Had the countries accepting to be part of this Israeli-inspired and Western orchestrated campaign against Iraq in particular and the Arab World in general been even-handed in their concern about the proliferation of mass destructive weapons in the Middle East they would have found many opportunities in the past to strike against Israel's nuclear armament programme while it was still in its gestation period. Instead of nipping in the bud Israel's increasing threats against the stability and security of the entire Middle East region, such countries have decided to show their true colours vis-a-vis the Arab-Israel conflict by adopting a biased policy against the Arabs. This is then the time for the Arab countries to stand united and firm against the ongoing blockade being imposed on Iraq.

Trade and commerce are still potent weapons that the Arab World can resort to in defence of Iraq's legitimate determination to face up to Israel's nuclear threat even in the wake of the relaxation of tension between the East and West. When the Arab summit convenes, it would be opportune to deliberate over the options available to the Arab countries to defend themselves and their interests.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i daily on Friday commented on the European Community's stand vis a vis the Middle East problem in the light of statements by the chairman of the Belgian parliament's foreign affairs committee Jean Gol, who expressed Europe's concern over the assault on the Christian clergy and continued Israel's mal-practices in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The paper said that Gol, who had learnt more about the situation in the holy city and the occupied Palestinian lands from His Majesty King Hussein, said that Israel's practices came as shock to his country and the European people at large. The King has called on Belgium and the rest of the European Community nations to exert double efforts to achieve peace and ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab lands, the paper noted. The King explained that the Middle East region, which holds more than 65 per cent of the world's oil, should be kept as a zone of peace and stability and that the world community ought to act speedily to end the regional conflicts, the paper added. What is needed now, the paper concluded, is to see Europe taking practical action and serious steps towards the establishment of peace and ending Israel's aggression on the Arab people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises certain sectors of the public who tend to use water excessively and praises the Water Authority of Jordan for embarking on an early summer water distribution programme to help make sufficient water supplies for all people. Nazih says in his daily column that Jordan has scarce water resources while the growing population continues to increase consumption, and therefore everything possible should be done to stem the wastage of precious water resources. The writer says that the distribution programme is deemed necessary every summer because of the fact that people tend to use larger amounts of water in the summer on the one hand, and due to the presence of large numbers of vacationers from the Gulf countries on the other. But, he notes, that since the programme will be applied anyway, the Water Authority should see to it that it is implemented in full and that its teams of workers, engineers and technicians remain committed to carry out repairs to the water networks and ensure water supply to all regions.

Serif Al Shabab daily expressed great delight over a visit to Damascus by Egyptian President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak which, it said, has now paved the ground for a real reconciliation among various Arab countries. The paper said that the visit, after a 1/2 year period of estrangement between Cairo and Damascus, is bound to pool their resources towards dealing with pressing issues of concern to the whole Arab Nation. The visit to Damascus has resulted in a halt of all propaganda campaigns between Damascus and Baghdad, and this is a very important development indicating that reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad is now closer than ever before, the paper noted. It said that every Arab effort is needed at the present moment to help confront the formidable challenges and dangers posed to the nation.

View From Amman

Arabs according to Zionists: Grasshoppers at best

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

CAN one argue in a logical manner with a fanatic? A zealot whose ideology has its roots in no less an authority than the distorted understanding, or even deliberate misunderstanding of the word of God? Zionism traces its roots to the mysterious and cloudy ideas that gave rise to the ascendancy and primacy of the God Yahweh and the concept of the "chosen people."

Zionism is an ideology that not only elevates and exalts the position of the Jews but has another side degenerating all other peoples to the status of Goyim. As the strength of Zionism and its terrible outreach and efficiency increased in this past century, its disdain of and arrogance towards others, especially the Arabs, deepened. The Arab-Israeli struggle over Palestine since the conclusion of the First World War added other dimensions to the hatred the Zionists feel towards us. Instead of softening their misguided hatred, Hitler's inhuman and terrible treatment of

the Jews increased the intensity of their enmity towards others especially the Arabs. Having succeeded in decisively influencing the policies and politics of the entire Western world, the Jews have totally failed with the Arabs who stand between them and their final victory. That the Arabs are innocent of their plight, indeed their bad treatment at the hands of the west, is a factor they have chosen to forget.

The dehumanising and the depersonalising of the Arab, turning him, in the eyes of the world, into an ugly creature remains a necessity in the Zionists' bid to achieve their aims. How else can one explain the hate propaganda and the deliberate distortion not only of the Arab image, but of our culture, history and values as well? How else can one explain the atrocities that continue to be committed daily against the Arabs wherever they may be? How else can one explain the bulldozing of homes in Palestine, the eradication of almost

800 Palestinian villages since 1948, and even the uprooting of Palestinian olive trees? The Israeli soldiers, well fed and well-armed, crushing to pulp the hand of a young Palestinian boy so he may never be able to hold a stone again?

Behind it all, behind all the dreadful and ugly acts is a terrible ideology built on the very exclusivist and racist concepts it purports to fight in the legacy of Nazi Germany. In a book entitled *The Arab Mind*, John Laffin remarks with a horrible simplicity: "We are left, then, with some profoundly significant conclusions which anybody dealing with the Arabs must understand...the Arab means what he says at the moment he is saying it...He is neither a vicious nor, usually, a calculating liar but a natural one." On another page he says "...he shouts, he gets excited, he boasts, he threatens, he rebukes...this is the normal way in which the Arabs communicate with each other...". The simplistic finality of the ugliness of this state-

ment, made by a supposed intellectual who, he says, spent many years studying the Arabs, cannot be fathomed by rational human beings who have even a trace of humanity left in them. And this was said in 1975.

This inhuman arrogance on the part of Israeli politicians and officials finds itself filtering down to Israeli school children, as several studies continue to reveal. During their contacts Menachem Begin spoke to President Jimmy Carter of the Arabs as "subhumans". Earlier Golda Meir proclaimed, "Palestine did not exist; therefore, there were no Palestinian people; and thus there is no problem." The reduction of the Palestinians, indeed the Arabs in the Zionist mind is a frightful phenomenon that translates itself into the inhuman treatment Israeli administrators daily against the intifada.

While Begin spoke of the Arabs as "subhumans" Shamir thinks of them as "grasshoppers" and Eitan, the former

Israeli army chief of staff, in a Kafkaesque though grotesque manner refers to them as "two legged animals" or "drugged cockroaches in a bottle." I wonder why Mr. Shamir thinks of us as grasshoppers? What does he have against the poor creatures anyway? No one condemns Sharon when he ordered the demonstrators to "cut off their testicles", or on the then chief of staff's instructions to the soldiers of the northern front, "the only good Arab is a dead Arab..." The catalogue of such ugly quotations can go on and on. But that is not the point, the point is that unless we prove otherwise, unless we convince them and the world otherwise, by building our societies, our strength, they and their strategic depth, the West, will continue to deal with us in the same way.

Further, and perhaps more important is that with such a terrible view of one's adversary how can one conclude peace

with him? How can one conclude a peace treaty with "sub-human"? "cockroaches"? Those you crush since they are a plagues; an infestation!

The month of April, 1990 witnessed the coincidence of the great feast of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. For both Muslim and Christian Arabs, the occasion was once again a sad one reminding them of their lost lands, their lost dignity and their degraded status in their own lands.

Slowly but surely we begin to rebuild confidence in ourselves, our culture and our right to life with dignity. The first and most important element of the equation is to fight against the weaknesses in ourselves. That is the greatest Jihad. It is only then that others including the Zionists, whom we somehow must tame, will begin to think of us in terms other than the present ones. Otherwise the chapter of the so-called "peace process" will continue and more, in the meantime, will be lost.

On March 10, an open letter from Mario Carera, coordinator of the Swiss Labour Community Swissaid, to Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the Fund, appeared in a Swiss newspaper, 24 heures. A translation of that letter and Camdessus' response to Carera are reprinted from the IMF Survey.

Don't drive the poor to despair

By Mario Carera

YOUR visit to Switzerland on March 13, Mr. Camdessus, prompts us to take the opportunity to appeal to you.

You are the Managing Director of the IMF, the true financial policeman of this planet. This title is not exaggerated: the Third World debt crisis, with the accompanying human suffering and the ecological pillage in order to pay the debt gives you the most prominent role in the international strategy now in place to face the debt problem. It is not the credit that you give to overindebted countries that is important, but the conditionality that you impose on them, which means putting back in order their economies, ruined by shock treatments (drastic budgetary savings, massive devaluations, general liberalisation...).

competence of your experts.

Yet, while you have been leading the fight against the Third World debt for a whole decade, the debt has increased from less than \$800 billion in 1982 to \$1,290 billion at the end of 1989, according to the IMF's own publications. Not even one overindebted country of the forty which you are in the process of "adjusting" has been able to overcome its debt problem.

There is a need for new strategies, which I would like to outline.

The conditionality imposed by the IMF on poor overindebted countries has to be modified: budgetary austerity yes, but it should be directed, as a priority, on expenditures such as military and diplomatic outlays, or on prestige investment devoid of any benefit, which are encouraged by the countries, industries, and banks of the North.

You might argue that such an approach is an intolerable outside interference. Let's call a spade a spade: through "conditionality," the IMF interferes by definition in the national policies of the countries concerned. It is a matter of "targeting" conditionality: for development, distribution of wealth, or protection of the environment. Or maybe, for the support of political regimes, oftentimes non-democratic, hated by the people.

The 1989 IMF Annual Report rightly remarks that "it is important that the external environment be favourable: positive terms of trade, buoyant markets, and lower interest rates." Yet, one of these "factors of economic progress" is present: the prices of most raw materials are declining; protection increases in the North as soon as countries in the South export finished products; and interest rates largely reflect the vagaries of U.S. monetary policy. Hence our question: is it equitable to impose adjustment programmes on the poor countries of the South, if the rich North does not adjust as well? Symmetry is in order.

Measures to reduce the debt, linked to actions to protect the poor and the environment, are the first conditions for a resumption of development. Yet, at a time when governments in the North are beginning to write off certain debts, the commercial banks procrastinate while cashing heavy interest payments on their credits. You are well aware that all major banks (American, German, ...and Swiss) have now built up large loan loss reserves. Only international pressures (from governments, public opinion, the IMF...) will convince them to participate in correcting their past mistakes. Again, symmetry in the effort is required: government, and, above all,

the people of countries in the South, as well as, to an extent, governments of the North; it is therefore the turn of the large international banks to cease part of the debt. Why don't you tell them more forcefully to do so?

On our side, through the petition Debt Reduction, a Matter of Survival, we ask the (Swiss) federal authorities to get more involved in debt write-offs, linked to development efforts in the South. If your debt reduction strategy were geared to development — and not only to major macro-economic balances — you would have, Mr. Managing Director, the public opinion support in the North as well as in the South. All the polls indicate it: aid for development — of the South as well as population — is supported by the majority of the North's population, so long as it improves the conditions of the poorest.

Today, this improvement is based on the premises of debt reduction and on a new type of conditionality geared to serve the impoverished urban and rural masses. And the IMF is at the heart of that challenge. Switzerland would honour its tradition of humanitarianism and cooperation if it stressed its fundamental demands (for those premises) when seeking membership at the IMF. This is, in any event, our "conditionality" with regard to that possible membership.

Yes, but IMF can only advise

By Michel Camdessus

I READ with great interest your "open letter" to me in the March 10-11 issue of 24 heures. Since then I have had the pleasure of meeting you and other representatives of non-governmental organisations involved in cooperation with the Third World during my recent visit to Bern. However, I do feel obliged to give the readers of 24 heures a brief summary of my responses to your comments. Our objectives are basically the same: give the poor good reason to hope for a better future and apply our energies unstintingly to that end. For this hope to become a reality, the International Monetary Fund, taking into account its specific mission, is endeavouring to convince all its member countries to adopt the economic policies which it has learned from long experience can lead to lasting, environmentally sound growth, even for countries heavily handicapped by indebtedness, excessive government expenditure, bloated bureaucracies, and economies stifled by overregulation.

This often involves intense reform, or, as we say, adjustment efforts. However, neither the poorest countries nor the poorest social groups should have to bear a disproportionate share of the burden, which implies, among other things, being able to provide countries with financing at acceptable terms during this critical phase of their adjustment. Therefore, with the generous support of your country and many others, we are attempting to provide the poorest countries undertaking such reforms with financial resources at the lowest possible cost: 0.5 per cent interest rather than 9 to 10 per cent, if not more, and repayable in ten years after a grace period of five and one half years.

You go on to ask, however, whether "conditionality" should be more closely geared to development, a more equitable distribution of wealth, and environmental protection. We share these objectives. What can we do to achieve them within the framework of our rules and regulations?

Out tasks to advise countries on economic policy mat-

ters. This means providing them with access to nothing less than the collective experience of 152 countries gathered over more than forty years — an experience with which we are fully familiar thanks to the ongoing dialogue we have maintained with each of them over all those years, examining successes and failures with each individually and in our Executive Board. Our "conditionality" reflects this experience as an expression of the collective economic wisdom, so to speak, of all our member countries. However, it applies to only a small number of broadly based measures designed to ensure the consistency and overall effectiveness of reform programmes supported by the Fund (reduction of budget deficits, growth of the money supply, exchange and interest rate policies, etc.). It does not allow us to step in and make sovereign choices for the State regarding, for instance, the distribution of national revenue or the size of the defence budget. In these areas we can only advise or suggest, and this is what we do when we assist developing countries in designing their adjustment policies so as to protect the poor as much as possible from the rigors of adjustment while making sure that the benefits of these programmes materialise rapidly and are distributed as equitably as possible. It is also what we do when

(Continued on page 5)

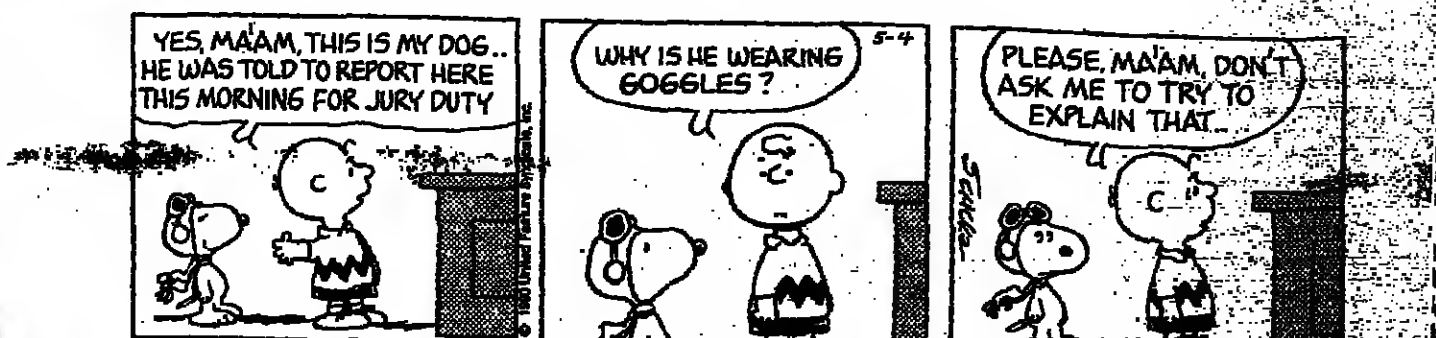
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



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N. Sea environment conference falls short of high expectations

By Wolfgang Koch

THE HAGUE North Sea conference was an undoubted failure, North Sea states agreed on nothing more than anti-pollution measures that are already in force in Germany. They were not even prepared to accept German standards in general terms.

That is not enough. The consequences will be painfully apparent to all in the none too distant future.

Two years ago, when the North Sea and Baltic were overgrown with algae and hundreds of dead seals were washed ashore, marine pollution made headline news.

Toxins, heavy metals, sewage, pesticides, fertiliser, detergent, plastic, oil, radioactive substances and other waste produced in riparian industrial states and pumped or released in one way or another into the North Sea and the Baltic were catalogue in exhaustive detail.

No-one has since been able to claim that not enough was known about the problem.

Ten years ago the council of environmental advisers to the Federal government warned Bonn of the consequences and called for counter-measures to be undertaken.

Six years ago Interior (now Transport) Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, whose portfolio included the environment, convened the first North Sea conference in Bremen.

No-one was expecting a decisive breakthrough the first time round, but countries that took part did at least undertake to be more careful about ensuring that fewer toxins found their way into the sea and agreed to step up inspection procedures.

At the second conference, held in London in 1987, the resolutions reached were more specific. Input of harmful toxins and nutrients was to be halved by 1995 and the dumping of industrial waste in the North Sea was to end by 1990.

In the Federal Republic, where the dead seals had upset public opinion and stepped up the pace, stricter sewage purification regulations were introduced.

Germany, acid effluent is no longer pumped into the North Sea. The incineration of chemical waste at sea is no longer permitted. The use of a number of pesticides has been banned.

What Environment Minister Klaus Topfer has already achieved is enough to ensure that Bonn will fulfil the terms agreed in London.

But what use is that when neighbouring states won't follow suit? Birds to have toxin input are doomed to failure unless all

North Sea states purify their sewage and effluent. In the Dutch capital they weren't even able to agree on a second, biological stage of sewage treatment. In Germany the third stage, aimed at halting the glut of nitrates, is fast being introduced on a nationwide basis. Britain brazenly ignores earlier commitments and continues to pump industrial effluent and sewage sludge into the North Sea.

Prince Charles, who so staunchly championed the North Sea at the London conference, has either not been given a bearing or not been taken seriously in his own country.

As long as the North Sea is not yet dead, the British seem to feel, it can continue to serve as a convenient garbage dump. They conveniently overlook the fact that the North Sea is in a critical state.

Early this year the Bonn Research Ministry drew attention to recent report on increasingly frequent cases of physical deformation of fish in the German Bight.

Britain is not entirely to blame. Despite strenuous efforts to improve the position the Rhine is still the largest carrier of toxic waste and hazardous substances into the North Sea, and the Federal Republic is a substantial contributor to its input.

West Germany is the leading industrial country in Europe and, despite its strict environmental regulations, still a major pollution offender.

So the Bonn government is duty bound to constantly improve its environmental track record, and it must do even better even if other countries are not yet ready to follow suit.

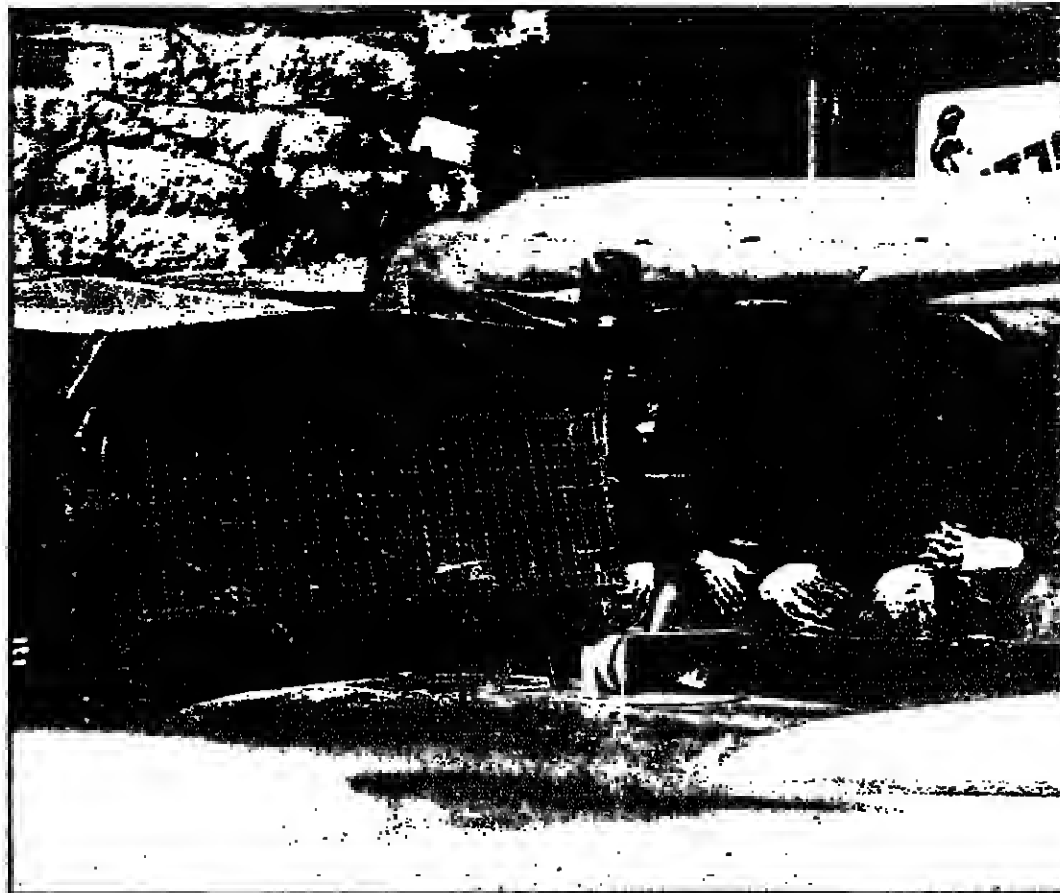
Bonn's responsibility for the environment is on the increase as German unification looms larger. The GDR has a lot to answer for, and much to make good, in the environmental sector. The Elbe is badly in need of environmental care and attention, and the sea into which it flows — the North Sea — will stand to benefit.

Whether that alone will be enough is doubtful. The measures planned are aimed solely at reducing pollution growth. They have failed to prevent a steady increase in overall pollution.

Inevitably, one wonders how long nature will take this treatment. Once the excitement about German unity has subsided, we will have to pay closer attention to making environmental protection more effective. Otherwise nature will take its revenge one day soon, reeking inexorably and harshly — Stuttgarter Zeitung.



SCENES FROM THE INTIFADA: With the Palestinian uprising poised to enter its 29th months, the Israeli occupation authorities are steadily tightening their grip by stepping up arrests and widening scope of detentions of Palestinians. Photos here show some scenes from the occupied territories (UNRWA photos)



'Your life or your jacket' — Chicago's new problem

By Sarah Nordgren
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — It is a modern urban phenomenon in America: Kids robbing — and sometimes killing — other kids over the hottest designer sneakers, sunglasses or athletic jackets.

In Chicago alone, four young men have died in little more than a year in violent confrontations over multi-colored, satiny jackets, which are splashed with athletic team logos across the back.

On an icy day this past winter, an 11-year-old boy was forced to hand over his \$61 Gym shoes to four youths, then walk several blocks to his home barefoot, one of scores of incidents that occur each month, Chicago police say.

"Kids who try to keep their jackets are beaten or killed," Chicago police commander Solie Vincent said. "It's a very cold,

callous frame of mind."

To combat the problem, schools from Baltimore to Miami to Los Angeles are falling back on an old idea: Dress codes. Some public schools are even requiring uniforms, traditionally associated with private schools.

"It's a definite trend," said Tim Callahan, of the National Association of State Boards of Education. "If clothing becomes a disruption to education, then we certainly are supportive of removing that barrier."

"Starter" jackets, the flashy jackets named for the manufacturer Starter Sportswear Inc., have triggered at least four murders in Chicago, police said.

In a grim acknowledgment of the garment's popularity, the police department last year created a separate category for "Starter jacket murders" in its citywide statistics.

Educators say dress codes that

eliminate some popular items and, in some cases, gang colours, not only help to stem violence but allow students to concentrate on learning.

"We try to discourage children from buying hot items," says Jim Murray, assistant principal at a middle school in a troubled Chicago neighbourhood. "When they don't wear those items to school, they don't have problems."

Alberta Mitchell, a counselor at Hendricks Academy, said a new uniform policy instituted at the Chicago Public Elementary School was "changing attitudes."

"We are trying to eliminate the problem of children feeling like they have to have designer-type clothes. It seems to have a calming effect," she said.

In many of the nation's largest public school districts, dress codes are the prerogative of individual schools.

In Baltimore, uniforms are recommended, but not mandatory, for elementary school students, and a dress code is suggested for secondary schools. Educators say uniforms now are the norm at 74 of the city's 118 elementary schools.

School officials can't recall any crimes over clothing since the police was instituted last fall, and Baltimore police say the problem virtually has disappeared.

"It still happens, but not with any frequency," said police spokesman Dennis Hill.

In the next academic year, high schools in Detroit will have the option of adopting a dress code. The new policy by Detroit's board of education was prompted in part by the December shooting of a student over his \$135 goose-down jacket.

In one New York City neighbourhood, a high school principal earlier this year barred students

from wearing removable gold caps on their teeth, saying the faddish caps were robberies waiting to happen.

But the new policies have not been cheered in all quarters.

In March, high school students in Palmdale, California enraged by a new anti-gang dress code, boycotted classes and pelted a sheriff's patrol car with rocks.

And there is some support for student resistance to the dress-code trend.

Laws allowing schools to require uniforms are "a way of trying to see that all students look alike, act alike and think alike," said Jane Whitcher, who represents the American Civil Liberties Union in Illinois.

"It's important for children to have an appreciation of their own individuality as well as the constitutional values that protect that individuality," she said.

Requiring uniforms might also pose a financial burden for the poor, Whitcher said, but her families are applauding the trend.

"Parents seem to really like the idea," said Shel Erlich, a spokesman for the Los Angeles public school system, the nation's second-largest. "It certainly calms down the amount of arguing the morning over what the kids should wear in school."

Meanwhile, some parents are imposing their own dress code when schools do not.

"I have two daughters, one senior in high school," said Charles Hill, who heads security for 40 Chicago schools. "I don't entertain the thought of Starter jacket."

"We want our kids to have everything," he said, "but I don't want our kids to have something that endangers their lives."

IMF can only advise

(Continued from page 4)

we speak out against useless military expenditure, or prestige projects, even if we are unable to make Fund assistance conditional on the reduction of this or any other specific category of expenditure.

The debt problem is huge. It is not surprising that it is taking so long to solve, considering that it is a matter of correcting the collective errors of almost two decades. Moreover, the Bretton Woods institutions cannot solve the problem of world debt alone. Like you, I consider that the commercial banks, which share responsibility for these debts, should do more to help ease the debt burden when the indebted countries are doing their utmost to put their economies in order.

In the long term, this can be of benefit to the banks as well as to the indebted countries. Overall, the debt cannot be paid unless the growth of the Third World is ensured. The Fund reiterates this constantly and facilitates the gradual reduction of the debt by granting loans to countries which negotiate debt and debt-service reduction arrangements with their creditors. We shall not allow ourselves to be discouraged because progress is slow. Each time a country seriously commits itself to such an effort, we support it fully.

"Is it fair," you rightly ask, "impose adjustment programmes on the poor South, if the wealthy North does not adjust in turn? Symmetry is essential." The rich countries of the North have a major responsibility, that of adjusting their own policies to promote economic progress. We continually press them to reduce their protectionist trade restrictions, which are major obstacles to the developing countries' efforts to diversify their production. We also regularly invite them, using all the means available to us, to manage their economies so as to yield higher growth with less inflation and in provide more aid to the poor countries. The current pressing need for international cooperation with the countries of Eastern Europe must not sidetrack the industrial countries from their obligation to continue to increase their development assistance to the poorest countries. These are the two major challenges of 1990s.

I regret that I cannot provide you with more detailed responses to many of the other points raised in your open letter. However, I would like to say before closing that I am very pleased to have this opportunity to discuss these issues with your organisations, and I hope that this marks the beginning of an ongoing dialogue between us.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said later that Bush "believes Jews and non-Jews ought to act in a manner that does not threaten the city's security or in any way prejudice prospects for the peace process."

Speaking with reporters on the White House driveway, Kollek said, "I have no doubt that the president has no objection to Jews settling all over Jerusalem without any exception."

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Israelis demolish homes

(Continued from page 1)

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As recent events in the Christian quarter have demonstrated, the real question is not an abstract one of the rights of Jews and others, but rather how these rights are implemented," Fitzwater said in a written statement.

"The long-standing opposition of the United States to settlement activity in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 is well known. So, too, is the position of the United States supporting a united Jerusalem whose final status is determined by negotiations," the statement said.

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Reuter**

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Jim	46	Intail work	52	Logan	51	Door of place
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sport injury transmits AIDS

LONDON (R) — A footballer caught the AIDS virus when he collided with an infected player on the pitch, according to a group of Italian doctors writing in a British medical weekly. In a letter published in the *Lancet*, they said that during a match last December, a 25-year-old man bumped into another player, a drug user known to have the HIV virus which causes AIDS. Both bled heavily from severe injuries around the eyebrows. The first man had been HIV negative a year previously but two months after the incident he was found to be positive. Doctors concluded that he was infected during his collision on the pitch since nothing in his behaviour indicated that he could have picked up the virus elsewhere. British AIDS expert, Dr. Donald Jeffries of London's St. Mary's Hospital, said it appeared to be the first time the virus had been transmitted through a sports injury.

More seeds lose in W. Germany

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Aaron Krickstein of the United States and Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany became the latest seeded players to fall at the BMW Open men's tennis tournament, losing in the second round Thursday. Krickstein, seeded second, was ousted 6-2, 7-6 by 69th-ranked Czechoslovak Karel Novacek. Steeb, seeded fifth, was downed 7-5, 6-4 by compatriot and Davis Cup teammate Jens Woehrman, ranked 77th in the world. Jim Courier of the United States, the no. 4 seed who advanced to quarterfinals Wednesday, is the only seed remaining in the \$277,500 tournament. Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden bowed out in the second round Wednesday and third seed Michael Chang of the United States was beaten in first-round play Monday. In other second-round action, Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia downed Kevin Curren of the United States 7-5, 6-1 and Swedish qualifier Christian Bergstrom defeated West German Udo Riglewski 6-1, 4-6, 6-0. Krickstein said a two-day break between his first- and second-round matches spoiled his rhythm. He said he also had trouble with the blustery conditions. Novacek, relying on a heavy serve, also proved to be a difficult opponent.

Rosset eliminates Sanchez

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Third-seeded Emilio Sanchez Vicario of Spain became the second top player to fall early at the 19th Madrid Grand Prix tennis tournament Thursday, losing to Marc Rosset of Switzerland 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the second round. Andres Gomez of Ecuador, seeded second in the \$279,000 tournament, advanced to the quarterfinals after rallying to beat Diego Perez of Uruguay 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-0. Sanchez Vicario, the world's seventh-ranked player after his recent victory over West German ace Boris Becker in Monaco, seemed at the top of his game until he ran into the 47th-ranked Rosset, who scored 18 service winners and was broken only once. Top seed Jay Berger of the United States lost his opening match Tuesday, leaving Gomez favoured to take his second-straight Spanish tournament after winning the Count of Godo tourney in Barcelona. In the quarterfinals, Rosset was to face Spaniard Marcos Goriz. Goriz defeated Jerome Potier, who forfeited because of an eye injury midway through their match. Potier had won the first set 6-4 and was losing the second 4-5.

Raab wins 10th leg in mass sprint

LEON, Spain (AP) — East German sprint specialist Uwe Raab won the 10th leg of the 45th Tour of Spain cycling race Thursday, beating out the main pack in a mass dash to the finish line. Spaniard Jilian Gorospe remains the overall leader of the 22-stage race, which was dominated Thursday by word that Belgian rider Nico Emonds had failed an anti-doping test. Emonds denied taking the prohibited substance allegedly present in his urine and his team asked for a second analysis. Raab covered the 230 kilometres (143 miles) from Penaranda De Bracamonte in 5 hours and 20 minutes.

Al Saleh wins Al Rumman race

By Munem Fakhouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday participated along with 43 competitors in Al Rumman hill climb race in a Mercedes car. His Majesty clocked the three-kilometre race distance in 2:20 minutes equalling his record time last year, and recording a speed of 126 kilometres per hour in the climb.

The first place in the race went to Mohammad Al Saleh since His Majesty's participation in the race was an honorary contribution. Saleh's total time in the race was 4:11.86 minutes for the best two rounds out of three. This was Saleh's second participation in the race.

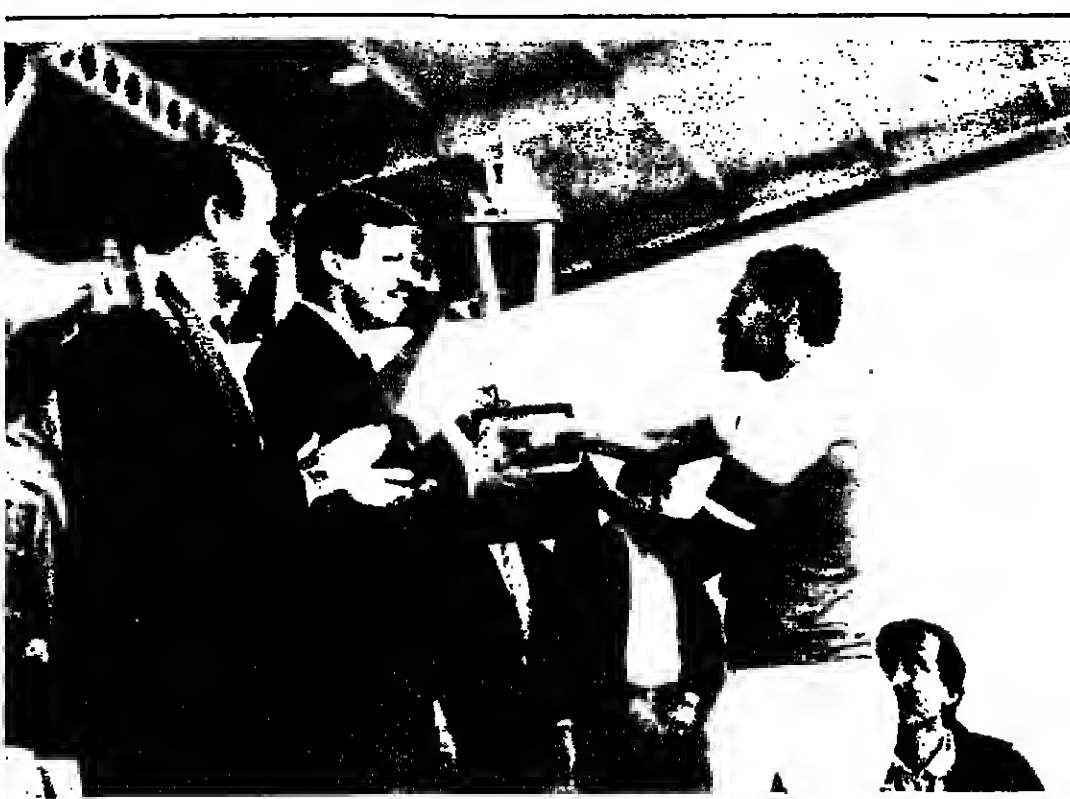
The second place in the race was occupied by Haitham Al Mufti in 4:24.16 minutes followed by George Khayyat in the third place in 4:24.45 minutes. Issa Halabi came in the fourth place, Hassan Al Tabaa in the fifth while the sixth place went to Hassan Ala'uddin, the seventh to Sina Al Saoudi, the eighth to Ghaith Bilbeisi, the ninth to George Lama and the tenth to Tareq Al Tabaa.

The race was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, Their Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Princess Alia Al Faisal, Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein and a number of princes and the Royal family members.

His Majesty King Hussein called in a press statement to give the opportunity to qualified youth to participate in realties



Mohammad Al Saleh smiles after winning Al Rumman hill climb race while His Majesty prepares for his honorary participation (Photo by Youssef Al Allan).



RATEB AL DAOUD, captain of Al Ramtha Club, receives the cup from His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein who deputised for His Majesty in the Cup Winners Cup soccer championship. Al Ramtha beat Al Faisali 3-0 in the match held Friday at Al Hussein Youth City (Photo by Abdallah Ayyoub)

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Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♦ K Q 10 9 7 5
♥ J 10
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ Q
WEST
♦ J 8 6 4
♥ 3 2
♦ Q 10 9 6 5
♣ J 6
EAST
♦ 3 2
♥ K Q 9 8 3
♦ K J 8 2
♣ 10 5
SOUTH
♦ A 7 6 4
♥ Q
♦ A K 9 8 7 4 3 2
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
3 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠.
We are indebted to 5th Column, published by District 3 of the American Contract Bridge League, for today's hand. The bidding was not given, but it might have gone as shown.
Since a jump to three clubs would not be forcing, South creates a one-round force by rebidding at the two-level in a suit ranking higher than his original strain. North's four diamonds is a cue-bid implying club tolerance, and six clubs nicely expresses the playing strength of South's hand.
Any plain-suit lead would have made declarer's life easy. South would win in hand, clear the ace of spades, enter dummy with the queen of trumps and take three heart discards on the ace of diamonds and king-queen of spades. That would guarantee the slam as long as clubs were no worse than 3-1 and spades 4-2, or if the hand with four trumps ruffed the third round of spades. And if spades broke 3-2, declarer would reel in an overtrick.
The trump lead, however, removed declarer's only entry to the table before it could serve a useful purpose, since the ace of spades blocked the run of that suit. To take a heart discard on the ace of diamonds would serve little purpose, since declarer would still be stranded with two losers in that suit.
There was a very elegant counter available, and declarer found it. After winning the first trick in dummy, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and discarded the ace of spades from hand! The king and queen of spades were then cashed for two heart pitches and, when both lived, declarer fulfilled his contract, losing only a heart trick.

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Ruling party suffers sweeping losses in U.K. local elections

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives suffered stunning defeats in local elections, going down across the country to the socialists' strongest performance since she won power 11 years ago.

But the Conservatives averted the rout forecast in opinion polls before the elections. The Labour Party had tried to turn the campaign into a referendum on Thatcher's third term and an unpopular new local tax.

"The result of the referendum is a defeat for the government, a smashing win for Labour," said Bryan Gould, a Labour Party campaign manager. "We're delighted."

Thatcher, however, was undaunted. She proclaimed the results were "a very good base from which to go on to win the next general election."

"Overall, the opinion polls have been confounded," the prime minister said Friday in a morning-after interview with Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency.

Though it won control in 10 new local councils, Labour lost to the Conservatives in the London borough of Ealing, where Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock makes his home.

Gould dismissed that loss. "I am sure Neil's residence in Ealing is extremely welcome to his immediate neighbours, but I don't think it is a big factor in terms of

people's voting preferences," he said.

For the first time James Callaghan's Labour government lost power to Mrs. Thatcher in 1979, the socialist party made significant gains in Britain's prosperous south, considered a Conservative stronghold.

The Conservatives, in deep trouble over the economy and the so-called poll tax, lost control of a clutch of previously safe southern English towns, including Portsmouth, Torbay and Gillingham.

They failed to gain ground in northern England and remained virtually wiped out in Scotland.

With results declared early Friday from 192 of the 201 local council races, Labour had won control in 10 new areas, giving it the majority of 89 councils. The Conservatives, who had controlled 60 councils, lost 12 of them and gained four, giving the Tories a total of 52 councils.

The third-running centrist Social and Liberal Democratic Party lost three councils and gained two. No party had overall control in the rest of the races.

After 192 councils were declared, a tally by the Press Association showed the Tories with a

net loss of 205 seats while Labour gained 303 seats. The centrist and minor parties, except the Scottish Nationalists and the Greens, all had net losses.

A computer analysis by the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) showed an 11 per cent swing in most of the country against the government since 1987 — the year Thatcher won her third term. That 11 per cent would be enough to give Labour a comfortable win in a general election.

But the Conservatives had feared even worse results. Pre-election opinion polls had forecast a rout, which did not quite occur. National polls showed the Tories trailing by 20 percentage points.

"Not a marvelous result, but certainly not the disaster that was being predicted," said Environment Secretary Chris Patten, the cabinet minister in charge of the poll tax. "...It's the massacre that didn't happen."

The latest Gallup poll, published Friday in London's Conservative newspaper the Daily Telegraph, showed just 23 per cent of the voters are satisfied with Thatcher's performance in office. It was the worst rating for any British leader since opinion polling began some 50 years ago.

Thatcher's ratings began sliding a year ago as inflation rose and the government raised interest rates. The inflation has continued unchecked.



Vietnamese refugees in an overcrowded boat sail the South China Sea

Boat people-15 years on, the problem is worse

HONG KONG (R) — Fifteen years after images of Vietnamese boat people fleeing their homeland first shocked the world, the problem is worse than ever.

Most of the early refugees were resettled quickly in a sympathetic West, but South East Asian countries are still grappling with the problem with little prospect of a solution.

"It's an appalling phrase, but there's only one way to describe it — a compression fatigue. Major resettlement countries like the United States, France, Britain, Australia and Canada have had enough," said a senior diplomat with long experience of the issue.

"The only way open to these people now is to go back. Meanwhile the South East Asian countries are caught in the middle," he added.

Thousands of Vietnamese are still streaming out of the country — Indonesia has taken 5,000 since January, just over 1,400 have arrived in Hong Kong and 3,900 have reached Thailand.

Hong Kong now has 54,000 in camps and detention centres, Thailand more than 15,000, the Philippines 26,000 and Malaysia, which has 20,000 Vietnamese, is now reported to be pushing boats away.

Robert Van Leeuwen, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees chief in Hong Kong, said although arrivals in the colony were down 66 per cent over the same period last year, the overall arrival rate for the region was only 15 per cent lower.

International efforts to reach a solution over the years have achieved mixed results. The 1979 Geneva conference adopted the first asylum policy which initially worked well, with South East Asian countries giving asylum to arrivals on the basis of resettlement pledges from the West.

But Vietnam's economy plunged deeper into the red because of a U.S.-led trade embargo after Hanoi's invasion of neighbouring Cambodia. A new kind of boat person appeared —

economic migrants, mainly from the impoverished north.

Previous arrivals had been mainly southerners, many of them former officials and military personnel from the U.S.-backed Saigon government.

Last year a fresh international conference in Geneva adopted a comprehensive plan of action (CPA) under which participating countries agreed to screen arrivals to determine their status and encourage those rejected to go back under guarantees of good treatment from Hanoi.

But the CPA is showing signs of strain. Diplomats say Malaysia is now pushing off boats regularly and there have been isolated incidents of boat people being pushed off in Thailand, although Bangkok's policy is to hold them pending screening.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar Thursday slammed Western nations for "unwarranted and undeserved" criticism of his country's role. He did not comment directly

on the allegations that the boat people were being pushed away, instead accusing Vietnam of lacking the political will to implement fully the CPA.

Hong Kong, frustrated at the slow pace of the voluntary repatriation programme under which just under 2,000 have flown to Hanoi in the year it has been operating, is once again pushing for forced repatriation.

Hong Kong officials are expected to press for regional agreement on forced repatriation at a meeting on the progress of the CPA in Manila later this month.

Many officials say the overall answer lies in Vietnam, with its legacy of more or less constant war since the Japanese occupation in World War II.

"If you can't feed your family, then you grasp at a slender chance and try to go somewhere where you can," said a Western diplomat in Hong Kong.

Caramanlis elected Greek president

ATHENS (AP) — Parliament narrowly elected elder statesman Constantine Caramanlis Friday to the largely ceremonial post of president.

Caramanlis, a six-time premier and former president, is Greece's fifth head of state since democracy was restored in 1974 after a military dictatorship.

Caramanlis won 153 votes of the 299 cast to be elected to a five-year term. He had needed at least 151 votes, an absolute majority in the 300-member parliament.

He and another top candidate, Yannis Alevras, a Socialist and former speaker of parliament, had failed to win the required 180 votes, or three-fifths majority, to win during the first round of voting Monday.

Alevras won 125 votes on Friday while a Communist candidate, Constantine Despotopoulos, won 21. One deputy abstained from voting.

Caramanlis, 83, returns to the post which he established and held from 1980 to 1985. He was backed by the ruling conservative

party's 150 deputies, a centre-right party's lone deputy, and two representatives of the Muslim minority in northern Greece.

Premier Constantine Mitsotakis, whose government is beset by high inflation and rising deficits, expressed satisfaction with Caramanlis's election.

"With the great respect he enjoys both at home and abroad, Caramanlis will help the country at this time of crisis," Mitsotakis said. "Caramanlis is a national personality above the parties, and he is called on to offer his services to all the country's people."

Mongolian president in China

PEKING (R) — Mongolian President Punsalmaagyn Ochiirbat, accused by opposition groups of turning his back on a national crisis, arrived in China Friday for the first top-level talks between the Communist neighbours in 28 years.

The 47-year-old president, who is making his first foreign tour since taking office in March, was greeted by a 21-gun salute in Peking's Tiananmen Square.

Before he left Ulan Bator to fly across the Gobi Desert, a coalition of opposition groups said he should delay his visit because of a national crisis.

"China's leaders object to our democratic reforms. Contradictions between the leaders could hurt the traditional friendship of the two peoples," said a joint statement by seven democratic opposition groups.

While Mongolia's Democracy Movement has won concession after concession from the authorities in Ulan Bator, China responded to demands for more freedom by sending the army into Peking to crush mass demonstrations last June.

Partly inspired by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, Mongolia's opposition sprang to life in December and won a pledge of free parliamentary elections in late July after nearly 70 years of monolithic Communist rule.

Recently the authorities have adopted a tougher-sounding line towards opposition demands.

Activists launched a protest hunger strike last Saturday and opposition sources in Ulan Bator said Friday that five were in hospital in the northern town of Moron.

Opposition sources and residents said 200 people were on strike in Moron's central square and 400 people in Ulan Bator's central square.

The opposition Mongolian Democratic Association (MDA) said there were rallies and sit-down protests in 14 of the 18 provinces in sympathy with the hunger strikers, who want an end to a law restricting demonstrations and a temporary parliament to replace the existing one before elections promised for July.

Cuba reinforces defences during U.S. exercises

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuba has deployed troops around the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, in case American troops conducting military exercises there mount an invasion, the government said.

The Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina said Cuba's "Operation Shield" includes a land defence deployment around the base aimed at repelling a U.S. incursion.

"There is an energetic movement of defence forces," the news agency said in a dispatch from Havana, the Cuban capital.

The deployment includes a squad of armoured cars, artillery units, a squadron of tanks, and an anti-aircraft unit manned exclusively by women, according to the dispatch monitored in Mexico City.

"The report of a U.S. attack on Cuba is totally false and is intended to distract the attention of the Cuban people on the real difficulties the country is facing," Shub said.

One U.S. military exercise called involves about 3,000 troops in addition to American forces regularly stationed at the Guantanamo Base, the dispatch said.

The United States also is holding an exercise named "Global Shield" on the American mainland and another called "Ocean Venture" in the area around Puerto Rico. Those two exercises involve a total of 15,000 to 20,000 soldiers, the dispatch said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Adam Shub denied the United States was planning an attack against President Fidel Castro's Communist government.

"The report of a U.S. attack on Cuba is totally false and is intended to distract the attention of the Cuban people on the real difficulties the country is facing," Shub said.

Patriarch of Ukraine becomes acting head of Russian Church

MOSCOW (AP) — Elders have chosen the Patriarch of the Ukraine to head the Russian Orthodox Church until a permanent replacement is named for the late Patriarch Pimen, the TASS news agency reported Friday.

Pimen, a monk who presided over the church during years of repression and a recent reawakening, died Thursday at the age of 79 after a long illness.

Pimen had served as patriarch of the church since 1971, leading tens of millions of believers under a government that has been officially atheist since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

Critics said Pimen was too much under control of the Kremlin, but his supporters said that he preserved the spiritual integrity of the church in hard times.

The Soviet Parliament sent a telegram, signed by Vice President Anatoly Lukyanov, expressing condolences to the church over the loss of Pimen, who over the years had actively backed Kremlin "peace initiatives" and arms control proposals.

Radio Moscow said a funeral was planned Sunday at the Monastery of the Trinity and St. Sergius in Zagorsk, 74 kilometres from Moscow.

Radio Moscow reported Friday that the new patriarch will be selected within six months by the local council, made up of all metropolitans, archbishops and bishops, as well as representatives of the clergy and laity.

The church's holy synod early Friday chose as Pimen's acting successor, or Locum Tenens, metropolitan filaret of Kiev and Galich, the patriarchal exarch of the Ukraine, the second largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Pimen is likely to be remembered as a pious monk who complied with the will of Soviet authorities before religious tolerance increased under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who took power in 1985.

"He was a product of his time," said Alexander Ogorodnikov, a religious dissident who was released from prison under Gorbachev. Ogorodnikov has continued his human rights activities and publishes the unofficial bulletin of Christian opinion.

Pimen "introduced into the church the administrative style of party and Soviet organisations in the country," practices that are under attack from reformers; Ogorodnikov said in a telephone interview.

Car bomb kills 5 in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — A car bomb destroyed a supermarket Thursday night, killing five people and wounding 23 in an attack which could signal a new feud between powerful Colombian cocaine cartels.

The 100-kilogramme bomb ripped through central Cali, 300 kilometres southwest of Bogota, destroying the La Rebaja supermarket and damaging 20 shops and houses, a police spokesman said.

Dozens of branches of La Rebaja, a national chain, were attacked during a bloody feud between the Medellin and Cali cocaine cartels from 1987 to 1989. The chain has been linked in published accounts to Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, also known as "the chess player," the reputed head of the Cali cartel.

The two cartels, which together supply 80 per cent of the cocaine used in the United States, clashed then over control of the lucrative American markets.

A police spokesman in Cali said five people were killed, including a three-year-old child, and 23 injured in the blast. No one claimed responsibility.

Firefighters tackled a blaze which raged through the supermarket. Electricity in the area was cut, local radio said.

Violence has swept Colombia since a tentative truce between the drug barons and the government broke down in late March and the drug traffickers declared a new offensive.

The violence as focused on Medellin, headquarters of the most powerful cocaine cartel, where 30 people have been killed in two car bomb blasts and about 30 policemen shot dead in the past month.

The attacks spread to Cali Wednesday when four policemen were injured in a bomb blast at a police station.

Police also blame drug barons for the murder of two leftist presidential candidates assassinated since March, although the drug lords deny the charge.

The government announced new measures Thursday to cut the risk of assassination for candidates in the May 27 presidential election. It increased television and radio time for the four leading candidates and said it would give money to each candidate to pay for newspaper advertising and transport.

U.S. scientists grow human brain cells in the laboratory

WASHINGTON (R) — Scientists have for the first time grown human brain cells in the laboratory.

"To our knowledge, no one has ever been able to grow neurons from the brain, probably from any animal, much less a human," said Dr. Solomon Snyder, a neuroscientist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where the breakthrough occurred.

The achievement, which is described in Science magazine, published Friday, has profound implications for scientists' understanding of the nervous system and for controversial U.S. research into the treatment of degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease with transplanted foetal tissue.

Neurons are the cells that make up the body's nerves, spinal cord and brain. They are different from other cells in that they normally do not divide. When

cells do not divide, new cells cannot grow to replace those that are dead or damaged.

"The problem with neurons is that they can't divide. By definition, growing tissue in culture means the cells divide. Now we have them living in a laboratory culture," Snyder said.

The discovery could help scientists to explore using cultured cells in transplants.

Some scientists have been exploring transplants of brain tissue from aborted fetuses as a treatment for such diseases as Parkinson's.

But, in a move that outraged the U.S. scientific community, the U.S. government has banned federal funding for such research, arguing that it would promote abortions.

"In principle, anything that one could do with a foetal tissue transplant, one could do with this just as well if not better," Snyder said.

The Johns Hopkins researchers already are collaborating with transplant experts, designing new experiments, he said.

The researchers obtained the cells for their culture from the brain of a patient undergoing surgery for the treatment of uncontrollable seizures.

Cells from the patient's cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that plays a key role in consciousness, memory, thought and intellect, were removed and immediately placed in a laboratory culture.

After 21 days, two small clusters of the cells had survived, which the scientists then cloned.

The researchers used various tests to ensure the resulting cells were representative of normal brain cells and then treated them with different combinations of nutrients and hormones to stimulate their growth and development.

S. Korea police raid morgue to seize worker's body

SEOUL (AP) — Police raided a hospital morgue to seize the body of a labour activist guarded by militant workers, but labour unrest around the nation showed signs of easing Friday, reports said.

About 600 riot police charged into the hospital in the southern industrial town of Changwon before dawn, took the body of the dead worker, Kim Young-II, and returned it to his family for burial, news reports said.

Kim, a 28-year-old labour activist at the Tongil Industry Co. in Changwon, 340 kilometres south of Seoul, leaped to his death from a two-storey building at his plant Thursday after dousing himself with paint thinner and setting it ablaze.

Officials feared the Kim's death might be used to stir up more trouble. Police in Changwon said their pre-dawn raid was at the request of the dead worker's family, who opposed a large "political" funeral planned by militant workers.

Radicals in the past have kept the bodies of workers or dissidents against the wishes of their families or held large public funerals as anti-government pro-

tests. The South Korean news agency, Yonhap, said about 200 militant workers guarding the morgue were overpowered by police wielding clubs and shields. Police arrested 149 workers, it said.

Widening labour protests turned violent last Saturday, when about 12,000 police stormed the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. shipyard in Ulsan, the world's largest, to quell a three-day strike, demanding the release of jailed union leaders.

Workers of several dozen plants in Ulsan, an industrial city 320 kilometres southeast of Seoul, and other regions have staged sympathy strikes.

A local newspaper, citing an unidentified government party official, reported Friday that President Roh Tae-Woo will cut short a planned international tour because of the political and labour unrest.

Although there was no official announcement, government officials have said informally that Roh was planning to visit the United States, Canada and Mexico later this month after a four-day state visit to Japan starting on

May 24. The JoongAng Daily News said Roh will visit Japan as scheduled, but may cancel plans to make a trip to the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The paper said leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party have recommended that Roh cut short the overseas trip to have more time to tackle urgent domestic problems. Besides the labour unrest, leaders are concerned at mounting public discontent with the Roh administration, whose popularity hit an all-time low of 12 per cent in a recent public poll by the ruling party.

Meanwhile, Hyundai officials in Seoul said about half of the 100,000 workers at their 13 subsidiaries in Ulsan were back to work Friday.

They said they expected further improvement in the situation after 27,000 workers of the Hyundai Motor Co., the nation's largest automaker, voted Friday to return to work Monday. The vote ended a week of sympathy strikes protesting police action to crush the strike at the nearby Hyundai Shipyard.

COLUMN

Pavarotti conquers Bolshoi Theatre

MOSCOW (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti's perfect tenor resounded through the famed Bolshoi Theatre for the first time Thursday and conquered an elite crowd that included President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa. Pavarotti, grinning broadly and extending his arms expansively to the crowd, sang four encores to increasingly loud cries of "bravo" and insistent rhythmic applause from the audience. The Italian star dedicated one of the encores to Mrs. Gorbachev, seated in a box just to the left of the stage, and met briefly with the Soviet president and his wife backstage after the sold-out performance. The Gorbachevs joined in warmly applauding Pavarotti on his third trip to the Soviet Union and his first in 15 years. They could be seen in animated conversation about the programme during pauses in the performance. Theatre workers said Moscow was hoping to buy up the few available tickets began queuing at 2 a.m., 10 hours before the box office opened. The theatre was sealed off by uniformed police, and only those with tickets could get through the cordon.

Italian jailed for biting off wife's tongue

PATRAS, Greece (R) — An Italian tourist has been jailed after biting off part of his wife's tongue during a passionate kiss in the back of a taxi. Giorgio Pasciello, 29, was charged with inflicting serious bodily injuries and ordered held in custody until a district attorney decides whether to send the case to trial. Pasciello and his wife Ariana, 24, hired a taxi to take them to the western port of Patras. The driver said they were kissing passionately in the back seat when he heard the woman cry out. "I turned around and saw the couple covered in blood. They were hysterical but I could not understand Italian. I drove them to the nearest hospital and doctors said almost half her tongue was bitten off," the driver said. After a surgeon sowed her tongue together, she told police: "We were kissing but suddenly Giorgio went wild and started biting me. I tried to push him off but he overpowered me. The pain was terrible." Before being taken to jail, Pasciello said: "I cannot understand why I was charged. We were on vacation and I got carried away. I should not end in jail for this."

MacLaine suspends music review until June

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shirley MacLaine has suspended her one-woman musical revue Out There Tonight until June because of a knee injury. Miss MacLaine, 56, will undergo arthroscopic surgery this week on her right knee to remove floating pieces of torn cartilage, publicist Dale C. Olson has said. The entertainer, tell on stage in Seattle during a March 2 performance of the show. She continued the tour for three weeks in San Francisco before the injury flared up during rehearsals, Olson said. The injury will force the postponement of a five-week run of Out There Tonight at the Pantages Theatre. The engagement was rescheduled to begin on Aug. 28. She is expected to pick up the tour on June 12 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Australian gives birth in bubble

SYDNEY (R) — A former Australian beauty queen with an allergy to 20th century chemicals has given birth to a baby girl in a porcelain bubble she calls home. Debra Paolitto, 26, was in 1988 diagnosed as having an "environmental illness" which caused her to faint and vomit when she smelt chemical vapours given off by modern materials like plastic or perfumes. Last June, the former Miss Sunshine Coast retreated to a hideout on the central Queensland coast, spending the whole day in a steel bubble coated with vapourless porcelain. Her husband Christian said Wednesday Debra had given birth to a girl, Elke, last Saturday after a 20-hour, drug-free labour. "It's not too often people suffering from this condition have babies," Christian said by telephone from an undisclosed address. "Most of the sufferers are older people although most of the younger ones seem to be Australian for some reason."